

Close escort gives peers sense of insecurity

In her seat yesterday in the Lords' Chamber, Baroness Thatcher, impeccably groomed as always, looked strained and sad. It filled this sketchwriter with melancholy for, though we have seen her look a great many things, she rarely looks sad. It reminded me of the day she left the Commons for the last time, remaining in the Chamber after the Speaker and MPs had left, and tidying papers on the clerks' table.

It seemed that a mood of unease gripped the Lords as a whole. These things are hard to define, but there was a strange inaccessibility about the Upper Chamber yesterday. Peers mused at each other

and rumbled under their breath with a surliness seldom found there.

Why could this be? Dignity has been afforded in many corners of this gilded palace by the Government's arrangements for Lord Richard (for Labour) and Lord Jenkins of Hillhead (for the Liberal Democrats) to see the Scott Report at noon today, some three and a half hours before statements in both Houses. A letter has been received from a mere secretary in the Department of Trade outlining the plan. It goes like this: a DTI car would collect any eligible peer from Westminster. "You will be met in the car park by an official... This official will

escort you throughout your visit [my italics]. This will be for your convenience and security."

Can you imagine the reaction of Lord Jenkins to the idea that some kind of a guard would be following the great man about? Was the eminent historian to be handcuffed to some tattooed bouncer from a private security firm?

"You will be escorted to a room in the DTI conference suite, where you will be able to read the report... Your

escort will be just outside your door. I would be grateful if you would not use a mobile phone or any other form of communication."

The very thought of Lord Jenkins using anything so undignified as a mobile phone beggars belief. He would not know how to work it: statesmen and former Chancellors have people to do things like that for them.

"You will not be able to take a copy of the report with you. When you have finished read-

ing, please contact the escort outside your door, who will arrange for the report to be taken into secure keeping. They will then take you back to the car which will return you to the House." The final indignity comes in a form, to be signed and dated, promising neither to leak the report nor run away with it.

Lord Richard, the Labour leader in the Upper House, has exploded with indignation. "Outrageous," he comments, "and demeaning, not only to me... but to the House. I am not prepared to accept [these conditions] and will not therefore be attending." Lord Jenkins is in a similar strop, and has wither-

Tabloids told not to break tapping code

Two tabloid newspapers were admonished by the Press Complaints Commission yesterday for publishing details of a tapped mobile telephone conversation involving the Duke of Edinburgh. Although it received no formal complaint about the articles, the commission told *The Sun* and the *Daily Mirror* that such pieces would not be tolerated. It requested both papers to review their procedures covering the publication of tapped telephone calls.

The commission reminded the editors of both titles that Clause 5 of its Code of Practice bans journalists from obtaining or publishing "material obtained by using clandestine listening devices or by intercepting private telephone conversations", unless the material is in the public interest. It said it would not hesitate to uphold complaints in future breaches of the clause.

Snail joins road protest

Anti-road protesters are hoping that the discovery of a rare snail on the route of the Newbury bypass could halt work. Desmodius' Whorl Snail — *Vertigo molisiana* — was found in the Rack Marsh nature reserve. Friends of the Earth believe the habitat should be made a Special Area of Conservation, obliging the Government to carry out an assessment of the ecological impact of the road.

Drug woman 'set up'

A 20-year-old British woman arrested in Thailand and charged with trafficking 9lb of opium said she had been set up. From her jail cell, Lisa Marie Smith, described as very bright by former tutors at Eastleigh College in Southampton, told how she accepted a bag from a man who asked her to fly to Japan with a message for a friend. "I cannot believe how stupid I have been," she said.

NHS 'poaching' protest

The National Health Service is accused of immoral behaviour today by Sir Raymond Hoffenberg, former president of the Royal College of Physicians, for poaching doctors from South Africa. In a letter to *The Times*, he says that high salaries offered to solve a shortage of consultants is undermining the health service of South Africa, where he was born and now works.

Letters, page 19

Football father fined

A man who butted and kicked another father at an under-eights football match has been ordered to pay £750 compensation and £2,000 costs by magistrates in Crewe, Cheshire, after his victim took out a private prosecution. Saleem Cheema, 39, who admitted causing actual harm, was initially let off with a police caution over the attack on Joe Tawil, 38, in Knutsford in June last year.

Drought warning

Water companies gave warning yesterday of renewed droughts in some areas. The Water Services Association said there had not been enough winter rain. The watchdog Ofwat said that they should improve demand management and tackle leaks. Fifty drought orders are still in place in areas covered by seven of the water companies. North West Water and Yorkshire Water are the worst affected.

Airline 'endangered life'

The first criminal prosecution of a scheduled airline for endangering life opened at Luton magistrates' court yesterday. The case, brought by the Civil Aviation Authority against British Midland, relates to a flight in February 1995 when one of the airline's Boeing 737s left East Midlands airport for the Canary Islands but had to make an emergency landing. The case was adjourned.

WPC's new protest

A policewoman awarded £32,000 in an out-of-court settlement over allegations of sexual discrimination is taking the Metropolitan Police to a tribunal for a second time, claiming that colleagues made her life unbearable on her return. WPC Sarah Locker was promoted to detective constable after she returned to duty two years ago but she says other officers have refused to work with her.

Boxer sought by police

An arrest warrant has been issued for Herbie Hide, the former world heavyweight boxing champion, after he failed to appear in court on a charge of damaging a car. Chris Youlden, for the prosecution, refused to believe that Hide, 24, was ill with malaria after reports that he had been seen out in Norwich. He told the city's magistrates: "When you have malaria you do not go out at night."

£2m carpet collection

The largest collection of carpets from a single owner ever sold at auction made £2,082,886 at Christie's in London, with strong prices for those from the Caucasus, Egypt, Turkey and Persia. The unique collection was assembled by four generations of the Bernheimer family, who ran a department store in Munich. The carpets dated from the 15th to the 19th century.

Solicitors' leader accuses vengeful opponents of blocking vital reforms

Attack on 'enemy within' splits the Law Society

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE President of the Law Society launched a strong attack on his opponents last night after he was accused of being preoccupied with enemies within and of being an ineffective reformer.

Bitter divisions in the organisation's ruling council emerged as Martin Mears blamed a handful of members for blocking his attempts to overhaul the society. He also accused his opponents of mounting a disinformation campaign about low morale and possible resignations at its Chancery Lane headquarters, aimed at damaging him.

Mr Mears was speaking after one of the rivals he defeated to become president last year accused him of attacking the society's staff and of failing to lead the



Mears: blamed clique

him of becoming "ever more preoccupied with those he sees as his enemies, which renders him ineffectual as an agent of change".

Staff at Chancery Lane had become demoralised since he became president, she claimed. "They are frustrated

wind up", and she replied tartly: "I will 'wind up': I haven't said anything at all controversial yet... we opened our notebooks."

But apart from a few snipes from other parts of the chamber, all proceeded smoothly enough, until the combatants left the hall, when Mr Mears took the press to one side, waved the offending *Lawyer* article at them, and hissed: "It's an hysterical rant". Meanwhile, Miss Pembridge re-entered the chamber for a session in which she was planning to resume attacking Mr Mears behind his back.

It was enough to make even criminals look gentlemanly.



Pembridge: wrote open letter attacking Mr Mears for his ineffective and demoralising leadership

Legal niceties put dampers on the speech for the prosecution

By JOE JOSEPH

THERE is nothing like the prospect of marshalling an eloquent legal inquisition — without any prospect of billing someone for £1500 a day — to make a solicitor tongue-tied.

This may explain why yesterday's Law Society Council meeting was, on the surface, more tranquil than expected, especially by members who had just read an attack on their new president, Martin Mears, which called him "seriously bad news for us all". The author of the article in *The Lawyer*, Eileen Pembridge, herself a council mem-

ber and a former candidate for the presidency, had added that Mr Mears was turning council meetings into a shambles and preventing reform through "arrogance and incompetence".

The shock was not the abuse: these sorts of things have been said about lawyers before. It was in discovering that lawyers talked this way about each other.

So when Miss Pembridge rose to speak and didn't wail like a banshee, the unusually crowded press seats sat smirking quietly, waiting for the kill. And when Mr Mears, looking at her watch, snapped: "Miss Pembridge, will you

have learnt to their cohort before Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, stands up at 3.40pm.

A Liberal Democrat spokesman said: "It is like some terrible exam. We have to pray that our men find the right page in time to blow the Government's arguments to smithereens."

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Ulster troops

Continued from page 1

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He also dismissed as "nonsense" suggestions that decisions taken by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, had been targeted by judges.

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overturning ministerial decisions in the courts. Lord Taylor of Gosforth defended the right of judges to reverse government decisions in the wake of concern among ministers and Conservative MPs that judges were extending the scope of judicial review.

Lord Bruton will tonight step up its campaign to be given access to British and Irish ministers when Gerry Adams, the party's president, delivers a keynote speech in Belfast.

Mr Bruton will discuss the crisis in the peace process with President Clinton in Washington next month. The Prime Minister, who hosted Mr Clinton during his visit to Dublin last year, will be in Washington from March 13 to 15.

Paul Bew, page 18

Cook's ordeal by speed reading

Continued from page 1

I take extensive notes on the report or take a copy home, but they will be expected to memorise it all so that on their release they can brief their parties. Mr Major has closed

off all exit routes. Notes cannot be smuggled out through room service, as sandwiches and coffee will already be in the cell, and none of the opposition spies have yet found out whether they will be allowed to use the lavatories. The minder will be outside the door at all times, although DTI officials say he will not be armed.

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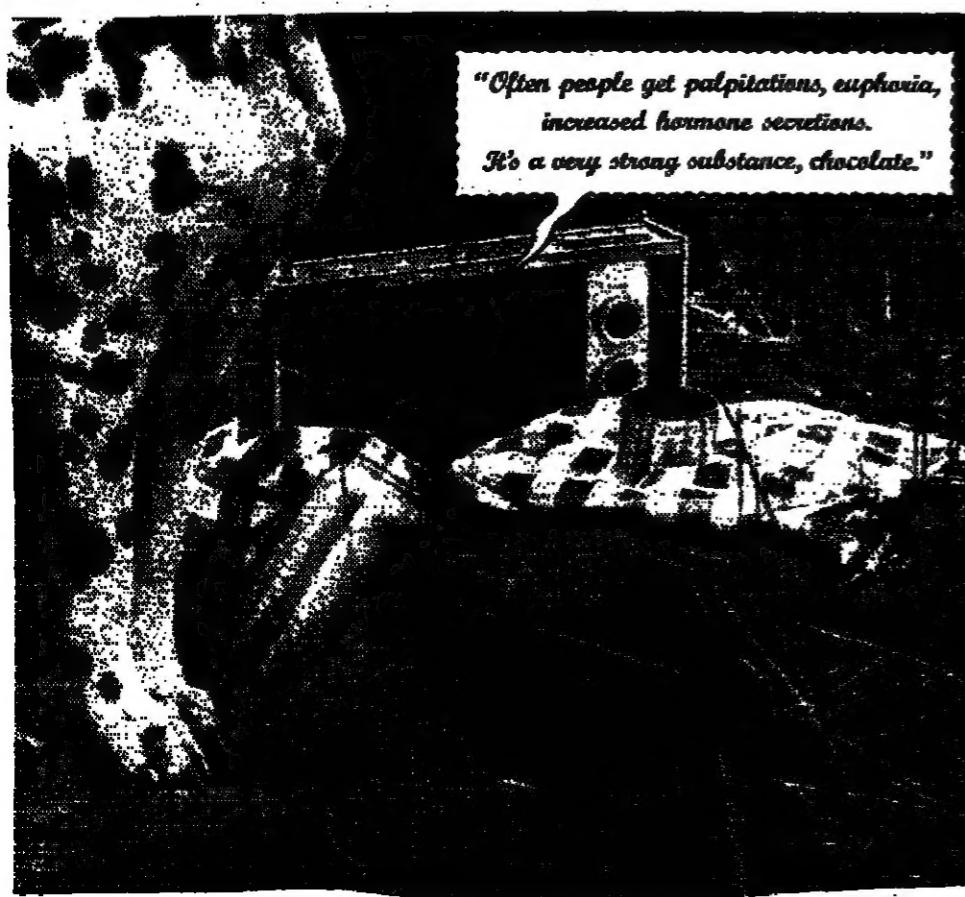
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Paul Bew, page 18

"Often people get palpitations, euphoria, increased hormone secretions. It's a very strong substance, chocolate."



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History repeats itself as youngsters pick up the political mantle from their parents

Children of Ulster rivals fight to be student champion

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

TWO veteran political opponents in Northern Ireland will watch their offspring pick up their political mantle today when they fight for the presidency of the Students' Union at Queen's University in Belfast.

More than 25 years after Bernadette McAliskey (then Devlin) spearheaded the civil rights campaign at the university where her daughter is standing against the son of John Taylor, the deputy leader of the Ulster Unionists.

Deirdre McAliskey, 20, and Johnny Taylor, 22, sound like any student politicians as they stress that they are fighting to preserve the interests of stu-

dents. But the young McAliskey and Taylor are also fighting to uphold the respective political positions espoused for more than a quarter of a century by their parents.

Miss McAliskey, who is studying psychology, like her mother, makes no secret of her republican upbringing. She said: "My background is socialist and republican. I was fortunate to have been brought up in such a political arena, but I have formulated my own political views."

Miss McAliskey, whose face stares out from posters all over students' union ahead of today's poll, stresses that she is

not fighting on a nationalist ticket. However, Mr Taylor, whose father studied applied science at the university in the late 1950s, is using his opponent's republican background in his campaign. He has criticised Miss McAliskey's decision to welcome the presence at Queen's of Saoradh, the republican prisoners' group.

Mr Taylor, who is known to his friends as JT, said that the presence of the group highlighted a worrying rise in republicanism at Queen's. Speaking in the offices of Gown, the university's student newspaper, he said: "Stim Reil has a presence at some meetings. I'm calling on Unionists and nationalists to vote for me to stop the rot." He wants Irish signs taken down in the union and the National Anthem restored at graduation ceremonies.

Queen's University, which became the focal point of the civil rights movement in the late 1960s, has played a pivotal role in Northern Ireland politics over the past 25 years. It has produced leading politicians such as David Trimble and has been the focus of sharp debates about the future of the Province.

The IRA bombing last Friday inevitably cast a shadow over the election. Miss McAliskey and Mr Taylor, who both condemned the at-

tack, were at a cross-community student meeting in Portaferry, Co Down, when the bomb exploded.

The candidates' parents, who have barely met during the past 25 years and who both survived assassination attempts, were reluctant to talk for fear of interfering with



Johnny Taylor and Deirdre McAliskey are both hoping to be elected president of Queen's University in Belfast

their children's campaigns. But Mrs McAliskey, who was the youngest MP in the House of Commons when she was elected in 1969 at the age of 21, said yesterday: "I have two daughters who have reached adulthood. They are both independent and confident and I am very proud of them." Mr

Taylor Jr said that his father, who was an active student politician during his days at the university, was unimpressed by his decision to stand in today's election. Mr Taylor, who is in his final year studying economic history and politics, said: "I knew my father would be annoyed with

me. He just wants me to work hard in my final year. But he seems to have accepted my decision."

A third candidate, Michelle McCauley, 22, the union's deputy president, has been dwarfed by her two rivals.

Paid £10, page 18



John Taylor and Bernadette Devlin, the former political rivals who have hardly met in 25 years

Docklands bomb-blast cat laps up the milk of human kindness

By PETER FOSTER

FRED, the cat rescued from the wreckage after the Docklands bombing, could start a new life in the country if no one comes forward to claim him, the Cats Protection League said yesterday.

Doreen Ryman, who is nursing Fred back to health, said that the tabby and white cat was not wearing a collar when he was found and was probably a feral cat living on his wits and scraps of food provided by office workers.

She said: "Our first job is to get him

fit and healthy again and then try to rehome him with his owner; if he has one. He seems to be well-fed, so he could be a factory cat who lives on his own, but gets the odd saucer of food from a cat lover."

"We will do our best to find him a home but if he is not suited to domestic life he will go to a farm or some stables in the country, where he can have a free run but be kept an eye on."

By yesterday afternoon no one had come forward to claim the cat who was rescued by two workers as they prepared to board up a basement in a

building shattered by Friday's blast. After picking the shivering animal from the rubble they took him to Mrs Ryman, membership secretary of the Cat Protection League in Ealing, west London, who agreed to house him in an empty pen at the back of her house. "At the moment he is very nervous and shoots around a lot, but that may be because he is not used to people."

"Apart from a scratch to his face and being a bit shocked and dirty he seems fit and well and just needs a few days away from all the fuss and TV cameras to calm down," she said.

Fred is being kept in isolation until he is calm enough to be taken to a vet for vaccinations. He will have plenty of company next week when Mrs Ryman takes in 20 cats as families go on holiday over the school half-term.

Fred was last night reported to be enjoying his first taste of domesticity as he dined on steamed fish fillets bought by Mrs Ryman to settle his upset stomach.

□ Anyone who believes Fred is their cat or could offer him a home should contact Ann Freud, co-ordinator of the Ealing Cats Protection League, on 0181-995 2629.

Fred survived the blast with only a scratch to his face.

'Colonial' authors write best English

By DAVID CHARTER

THE best writers of contemporary English often do not speak it as their first language, a leading academic said yesterday.

Professor Sidney Greenbaum, who has just completed the 652-page *Oxford English Grammar*, said the language imposed by Britain as a colonial power was now being used most creatively by authors from the former Empire. Novels such as *A Suitable Boy* by Vikram Seth and *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie were stretching the bounds of English.

"It has been said that the Empire is striking back," said Professor Greenbaum, director of the Survey of English Usage at University College London. "It may well be that being second-language speakers, they are more creative and more willing to experiment, by responding to local conditions and introducing local rhythms."

He said the trend was shown by the success of authors such as Rushdie, Seth, Timothy Mo and Wole Soyinka. "A Suitable Boy is a splendid book on a colossal scale, with lots of words that are foreign to British English speakers, but in context they are understandable. These writers are 'striking back' in the sense that they are achieving recognition within this country. They must also be an influence on other writers."

Professor Greenbaum said all forms of English had a common core of vocabulary and the main differences between various groups of speakers were in pronunciation. While the Royal Family and British politicians were more likely to sound "stuffy", American public figures spoke in a more "folksy" down-to-earth manner, although neither could be said to be a "better" use of English.

Books, pages 34-35

Gulf hero killed on weather flight

By A STAFF REPORTER

A PILOT killed in an RAF jet crash was named yesterday as a Gulf War hero who survived six weeks as an Iraqi captive. Flight Lieutenant Simon Burgess, 28, died when a Hawk trainer jet went out of control at Valley, Anglesey, on a routine solo mission to check the weather.

The experienced pilot from Hunderside ejected but his parachute appears to have failed. Flt Lt Burgess was the RAF's youngest pilot in the Gulf War. He was part of a two-man crew who successfully ejected from their stricken RAF Tornado GR1 during a night mission over President Saddam Hussein's southern command in Basra on January 24, 1991.

Last analysis showed that one of their 1,000lb bombs went off too soon, sending the Tornado out of control. Flt Lt Burgess and the navigator, Squadron Leader Robert Anker, were captured by Iraqi civilians and handed over to Iraqi troops. He was freed on March 5 with eight other British prisoners of war, including Flt Lt Adrian Nichol, who had been paraded on Iraqi television in a broadcast that shocked the world.

Flt Lt Burgess, who was nicknamed Budgie, gained his



How Raleigh lost out to 50p piece

By ALAN HAMILTON

TWENTY-FIVE years ago today Britain went decimal. And in the rush towards metric currency we lost Sir Walter Raleigh on a 50p note.

Artists at the Bank of England were redesigning the much-loved brown ten-shilling note in 1967 when word came through that LSD was facing the death sentence.

Harry Eccleston, the bank's chief banknote artist, immediately produced a new note, marginally smaller than the present £5, and a few trial copies were made.

Rare examples of the note, in both its ten-shilling and 50p versions, go on show today in the Bank's museum in the City of London, as part of an exhibition commemorating 25 years of decimalisation. The note never went into production. Bank officials decided that in an era of galloping inflation, the life of such a low-denomination note would be short.

They opted instead for the widely unloved 50p coin, whose seven-sided shape is said to have been chosen so that it could be removed from a Scotsman's hand with a spanner. But there is still doubt over why the Bank chose Raleigh, pioneer importer of tobacco and potatoes yet beheaded for treason by

James I, to join a financial gallery of less-tainted national heroes which includes George Stephenson, Charles Dickens, Sir Christopher Wren, the Duke of Wellington and Florence Nightingale.

John Keyworth, curator of the Bank of England Museum, said yesterday: "When the designer was asked at the time, he said his choice was more a reflection on James I than on Raleigh."

Noel Moore, a retired civil servant who in 1971 was secretary of the Decimal Currency Board, recalled that decimalisation had been delayed because of a long-running debate over whether to base the new system on a ten-shilling unit, which would have been easy and convenient, or £1, which at the time was awkwardly divided into 240 pennies.

History has proved that James Callaghan, who was Chancellor of the Exchequer at the time, was right to opt for the pound. Had we opted for a decimal unit that was worth 50p, people would have got the idea that the currency was being devalued. Besides, the rate of inflation since the 1970s would have meant that all the coppers in the coinage would by now be worthless metal," Mr Moore said.

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Cabbie reckons without North Sea

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A TAXI driver who agreed to take a hospital doctor to work was recovering yesterday from a 1,300-mile round trip that took five and a half days to complete and left him hundreds of pounds out of pocket.

Vincent Martin's ordeal began eight days ago, when he agreed to transport Dr Thambiillai Arudchenthan, 30, and all his belongings from Boston, Lincolnshire, to Lerwick, in the Shetland Islands, to take up his new post as a senior house officer at the Gilbert Bain Hospital.

Dr Arudchenthan, who is

from Sri Lanka, had calculated it would be cheaper to take a taxi than to fly to Lerwick and hire a van for his belongings. The flight alone costs £254. He called Star Taxis in Boston and asked if they would accept the fare. After a few hastily scribbled calculations on the back of an envelope, Star quoted a price of £300 for the trip and set about finding a driver.

Mr Martin, with only a vague idea of the geography of the route, accepted the challenge and, at 3am on February 7, they set off on a 13-hour, 440-mile journey through blizzards and high winds in Aberdeen, where Mr Martin was anticipating a

two-hour ferry crossing to Lerwick.

Nineteen hours later, after 200 miles of being tossed about in one of the roughest parts of the North Sea, they docked in gales and sheet

A spokesman for Star Taxis said if they had known the crossing took 14 hours and that Mr Martin could be delayed for three days on Shetland, they would have charged £700 for the job.

Mr Martin said: "I don't want to point the finger of blame at anyone. The doctor looked after me and got my meals for me. The Shetland people were very friendly. It was just the monotony of being away from my family. I'll put it down to experience, albeit a bad one."

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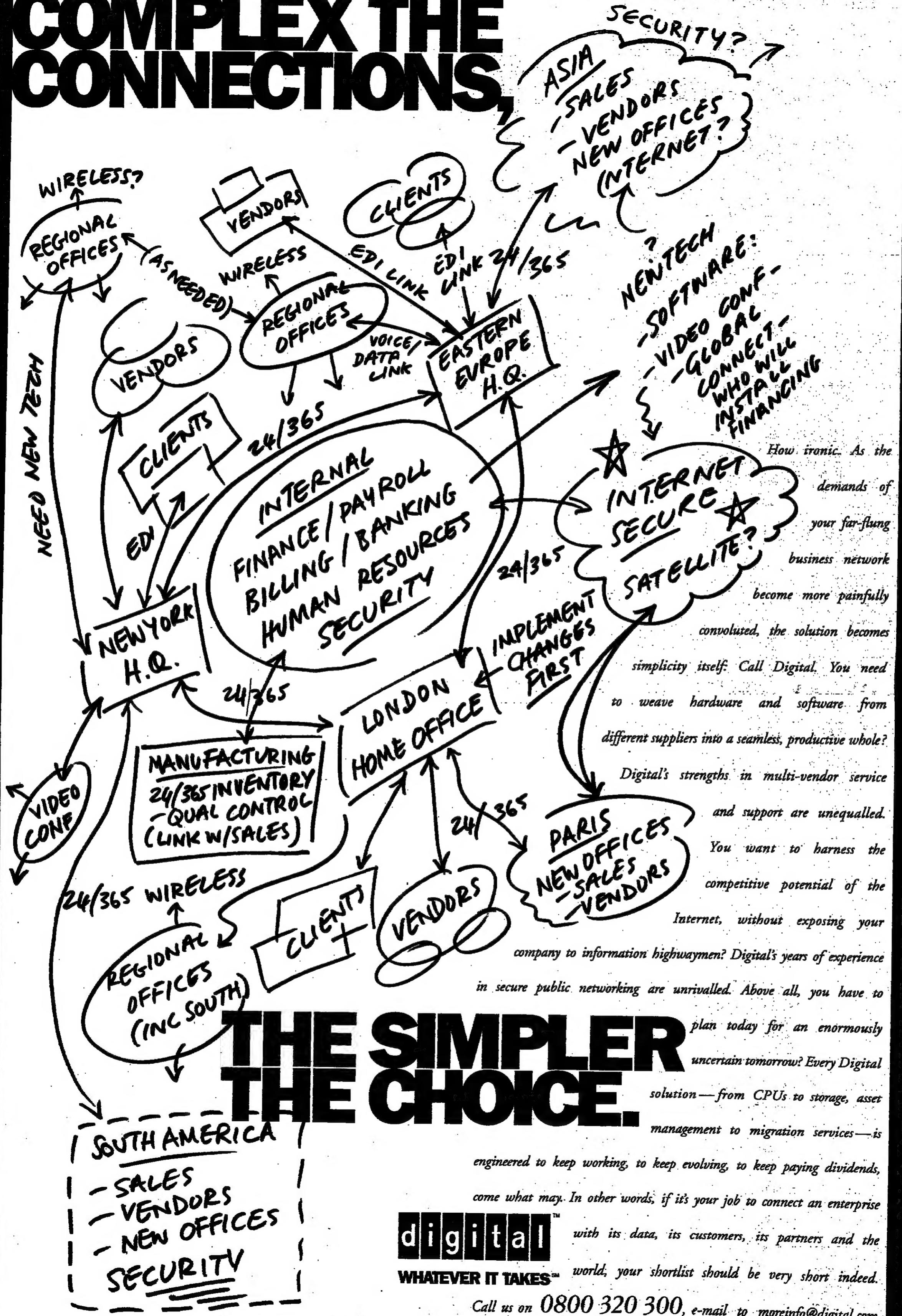
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THE MORE COMPLEX THE CONNECTIONS,



Synod told how debts mount in episcopal palaces

Church rejects call for bishops' pay to be cut

BY RUTH GLEDFIELD, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

FACED with a vision of a cash-strapped bishop struggling with Tesco shopping bags, huge gas bills and mounting debts, the Church of England yesterday rejected calls to pay clergy equally.

The Right Rev Michael Baughen delivered a moving description at the General Synod of the penury he faced after he was made Bishop of Chester in 1982. Speculation had been mounting that the 500 clergy and laity, if not the bishops themselves, might support a motion to abolish stipend differentials.

Quotes from the Gospels about the merits of poverty were bandied about. There were calls for the Church to set an example to a materialist world. But in one of his most passionate contributions to the synod, Bishop Baughen, who earns about £25,000 compared to the average vicar's £13,450, made it acceptable for a servant of Christ to espouse the merits of a decent wage. "The

first shock of moving into a big house was the gas bill: £1,000 for the first quarter, and we were plunged into debt," he said. "Furnishing the palace, draining every penny. We were catering for other people, washing up for Christ's sake, lugging back shopping from Tesco's every week."

He referred to the recent decision to sell Blisshope Down, the palace occupied by the Bishop of Portsmouth. Headlines like "Bringing bishops down to size" and "Get them out of their palaces" are very hurtful when you give 100 hours a week to Christ's work and live in a little sitting room upstairs with no home life. We look at many vicars with envy."

Other speakers who supported the bishops' higher wage almost apologised for doing so. Viscountess Bradford, from the Chichester diocese, and a member of the House of Laity, said it might not be "politically correct in

theological terms", but argued that bishops deserved more money than their clergy. She referred to the only bishop's wife who is a member of the synod. Lady Brentford said that the time that Molly Dow gave to assisting her husband, Bishop Graham Dow of Willesden, made it almost impossible for her to find a job of her own. The income of many vicars was supplemented by their wives' earnings.

Lady Brentford said: "The entertaining bills do run up."

As a bishop's wife, it is very rare to get lots of gifts in kind,

which as a clergy person in a big parish is quite likely."

In 1939, diocesan bishops earned on average 16 times as much as parish priests, which if sustained today would entail average bishops' stipsends of more than £200,000. By 1939, bishops were paid six times as much and now earn twice as much. If senior clergy had their stipsends reduced to those of rectors and vicars, the

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Church would save £2.6 million, more than three times the amount that would be saved by proposed organisational changes.

The Archbishop of Canterbury earns £45,350, the Archbishop of York £39,730, the Bishop of London £37,030 and other diocesan bishops £29,450. Suffragan, or assistant, bishops, deans, provosts of cathedrals and archdeacons earn £20,210.

The Ven John Packer, Archdeacon of West Cumberland, who proposed the motion, said: "It is impossible and wrong to value Christian ministry financially ... Authority lies in the Gospel and its services, and not in the way we distribute our finances."

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Cambridge team's 'shoestring' instrument takes sharper picture from a field than Hubble in space



Professor John Baldwin with part of the optical telescope at Lord's Bridge Observatory near Cambridge. The entire instrument cost £880,000

British telescope revolutionises view of the stars

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

BRITISH physicists have perfected a telescope that can take a sharper picture than the Hubble space telescope.

But it is not orbiting the Earth like Hubble, nor on a remote mountain-top like other powerful and costly modern telescopes, but in a muddy field five miles southwest of Cambridge. Professor John Baldwin, the leader of the team that devised it, calls it the first fundamentally new type of optical telescope since the days of Galileo.

Coast — for Cambridge Optical Aperture Synthesis Telescope — has just produced its first images of the star Capella in the constellation of Auriga. This has been known to be a double star for nearly a century, but no telescope had been able to show the two stars as separate, as Coast has

they can be made to interfere with one another, producing patterns which are detected by photodiodes and turned into an image electronically. The result is to produce a telescope with the same power as one which had a mirror as large as the distance between the individual elements in Coast — about six to seven metres.

And, unlike such a big mirror, Coast is less affected by the atmospheric turbulence which has driven astronomers to the tops of mountains and into space. That is why it has been able to separate the stars in Capella even from a site with such poor "seeing" as Cambridge.

Coast's ability to distinguish detail is about five times better than Hubble. Professor Baldwin says: "Where it cannot match the space telescope is in light-gathering capacity, which enables Hubble to take images of extremely dim and distant objects. Nor can Coast take 'snapshots'. The Capella image needed ten hours of observation.

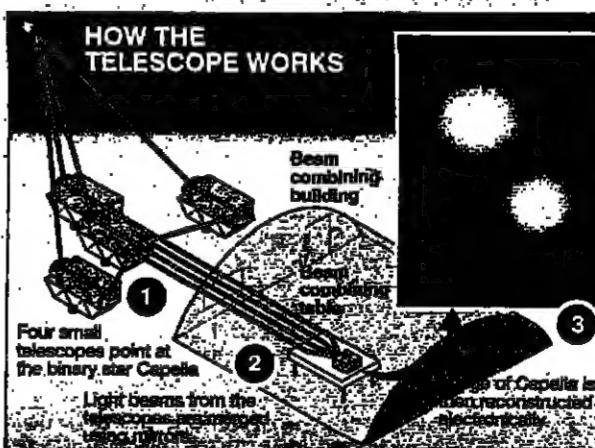
The Cambridge instrument, costing £880,000, consists of four small telescopes with 40cm (16in) mirrors. Each is pointed at the same object and their light combined to create the image.

This involves maintaining the path length — the distance the light has to travel — very precisely to keep its waves and troughs in phase. As the Earth rotates and the star moves across the sky, its distance to each telescope changes.

To allow for this, the light is bounced off a mirror carried on a mobile trolley. A laser monitors the position of the trolley to an accuracy of five millionths of a millimetre.

The beams from each telescope pass through plastic tubes into a tunnel, roofed in corrugated steel with a metre of soil and grass over it. This provides a stable temperature, vital for the accuracy of the beam paths.

Once the beams are merged



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Dr Johnson, left, with Mr Abdalla: "All our patients should get treatment free"

Witchdoctor heads north on grisly quest

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A WITCHDOCTOR is due to arrive in Britain from South Africa today in search of the shrunken head of a long-dead ancestor. Chief Nicholas Gcaleka believes the head of the warrior King Hintsa lies somewhere in Scotland.

Museums up and down the country have been searching their collections, but as yet have found no trace of the 160-year-old relic. Chief Gcaleka, who flies into Heathrow this morning, is undeterred: he is determined not to leave Britain without it.

King Hintsa, Chief Gcaleka's great-great-uncle, died in May 1835 at the hands of a military guide of Scottish descent called George Southee during the Sixth Frontier War between the Cape Colony and the Xhosas. Chief Gcaleka believes his ancestor will not rest in peace until his head is returned to his native land.

The former drink salesman and Methodist minister has no fixed itinerary and will be guided in the search for the head by the spirits. His spokesman in Britain, Robert Pringle, says the chief will almost certainly visit Scotland in the next fortnight.

He is particularly keen to go in Fort George, near Inverness, where the 72nd and 75th Highland regiments were based. According to the chief: "The soldiers that killed Hintsa were Scottish people."

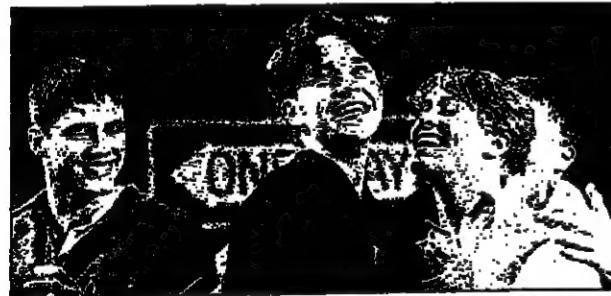
The spirits have told me so. They have even showed me in dreams where it is. I have seen it."

Colonel Cummings, who runs the Highlanders Museum at Fort George, has made a thorough search and is adamant there is no head. He said he would be pleased to show the chief around the museum and assist him as best he can.

A spokeswoman at the Army headquarters in Edinburgh said she had telephoned dozens of Army museums in Scotland to try find the head, but so far there was no sign of it. "We will be happy to help him if we can but because he is taking travel advice from the spirits, we don't know when he is arriving," she said.

Barbara Buchan, of the National Museum of Scotland, said: "We don't have the head. We have checked and we simply don't have it. Our collection of shrunken heads is pretty small. If we did have it we would certainly let him know about it. We have some skulls in our collection, but they are mostly of European origin."

Mr Pringle said yesterday: "Chief Gcaleka is the top witchdoctor in South Africa and, if he finds the head and takes it back, it will end all the heartache and violence in South Africa."



Tearful pop fans swamp ChildLine

By CAROL MIDGLEY

TEENAGE girls traumatised by the break-up of the pop group Take That have swamped the ChildLine charity with calls.

Hundreds of fans poured their hearts out to counsellors, some saying they felt bereaved, a few suicidal. Calls came through the night, with surges yesterday during school breaktimes and lunch hours. Fans erected a make-shift shrine of flowers and candles in Oxford Street in London. In Piccadilly Circus the Samaritans' number, 0345 909090, was displayed in lights throughout the day.

Jill Carter, spokeswoman for ChildLine, founded ten years ago to help abused children, said most of the girls calling felt they were going through a genuine crisis. "We talk to them about their options, tell them to share their distress with other fans and ask them if there is a teacher or someone they could go to. Some feel they won't be taken seriously, but parents

Alan Coren, page 18

should try to sympathise as much as possible." She said many had built their lives around the band and now faced a void.

Jane Firbank, a child psychologist, said: "To grown-ups the fans' reaction seems to show a dramatic lack of perspective, but growing up is [about] finally acquiring that perspective. To these girls these young men from Take That are their first love. They have built it up in their heads that they could, genuinely, have a future with them."

A spokeswoman for RCA, the band's record company, said many calls were being referred to ChildLine, but if they increased the company would set up its own line. "We are very concerned if fans are feeling suicidal, but we must stress that this isn't the end of Take That. They are all individuals and are still going to go down their own paths."

Concern as NHS unit undercuts private clinics

Investigation into price war for test-tube parents

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

HEALTH officials launched an investigation yesterday after a price war broke out among test-tube baby clinics. An NHS hospital, the Chelsea and Westminster in west London, had announced it was offering *in vitro* fertilisation at £800 per cycle compared with a typical private bill of £1,500 or £2,500.

At a press launch, Dr Mark Johnson, consultant endocrinologist, said they were charging the basic cost because consultants were waiving private fees, while the private hospitals who dominated the treatment had been able to "charge what the market would bear".

However, a Department of Health spokesman said that couples who paid for treatment should be regarded as private patients and treated outside NHS time. Legal responsibility rests with the NHS trust only for patients who are treated on the NHS,

A new drug that can halve the risk of rejection in the early months after a kidney transplant is about to be licensed in Britain. Mycophenolate mofetil, a Roche product expected to be marketed as CellCept, "is the most exciting development in transplantation for a decade", Neil Parrott, a consultant transplant surgeon at Manchester Royal Infirmary, said. Current drugs fail to control rejection in 40 per cent of transplanted kidneys and eventually the patients concerned are likely to need another transplant.

but remains with the consultant if they are treated privately. The spokesman added: "We are looking into this as a matter of urgency."

At the Chelsea and Westminster, infertile couples are treated free if their health authority agrees to fund the cost, or must pay the price themselves. Many authorities refuse to pay, or impose restrictions such as on age. The price does not include drugs, which add a further £400-£700.

The hospital claimed yesterday that its price was the lowest available in London and possibly in the country. St Thomas's hospital also

charges £800 but this is going up to £900 from April. King's College charges £650 but cannot fit in new patients before April, when its price will rise to £850. Walsgrave hospital, Coventry, charges £800 to patients paying for themselves — and £665 if their health authority pays — rising to £900 in April.

There are 69 clinics providing IVF, of which only half a dozen treat NHS patients. Latest annual figures, for 1993, show 18,000 women had 21,000 cycles of treatment, resulting in 3,089 live births.

The Chelsea and Westminster unit was opened in November and aims to handle up

to 1,000 cycles per year. Dr Johnson said the charges had been driven down by "cost pricing", in which the unit charges only for use of the facilities and staff.

Sam Abdalla, a consultant gynaecologist who also runs the infertility clinic at the private Lister hospital, said: "We got fed up seeing patients who needed *in vitro* fertilisation and telling them they would have to go to the private sector."

Earlier Mr Abdalla attacked the refusal of health authorities to pay for test-tube treatment: "Everywhere in this hospital patients have free treatment. But not here. That is because health authorities do not regard infertility as a disease."

"That is absolute rubbish: it is a major disease for which women have to undergo major operations. All of our patients should get treatment free. But we live in the real world and if patients are not funded, we want to charge them cost price."



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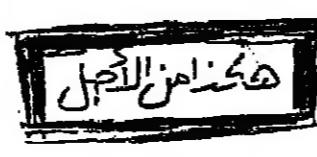
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16/2/96

Criticism over arms-to-Iraq affair will range from a rap on the knuckles to severe censure

Who's who in Scott spectrum of right and wrong

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON
WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

THE Prime Minister and several members of his and Margaret Thatcher's governments are expected to be criticised with varying severity in Sir Richard Scott's report on the arms-to-Iraq affair today. Sir Robin Butler, head of the Civil Service, is also in the firing line. Others, such as Michael Heseltine, should come through unscathed.

JOHN MAJOR

Charge: As Foreign Secretary wrote to various MPs saying guidelines on arms exports to Iraq had not been changed. FO official had told him in July 1989 of an unannounced change in the policy. Was told by Alan Clark that a "nod and a wink" had been given to machine tool companies to exports to Iraq.

Defence: Responsibility for drafting the letters to MPs lay with officials. Was unaware of the details of "all" in arms export guidelines. "One of the charges at the time of course was that in some way — because I had been Chancellor, because I had been Foreign Secretary, because I had been Prime Minister — that therefore I must have known what was going on."

Likely verdict: A slight rap over the knuckles for giving inaccurate information to MPs.

WILLIAM WALDEGRAVE

Charge: As junior Foreign Office

minister was one of three ministers who secretly changed the guidelines on arms exports to Iraq and decided not to tell MPs. In a parliamentary answer in May 1989 denied any change in the policy. Wrote similarly to MPs and others on at least 27 occasions. Approved machine tool exports when security service reports said they would be used to make arms.

Defence: Greater "flexibility" in applying the guidelines did not amount to a change in the policy. As no change in policy had been announced, no change had taken place. Did not see security service reports on military application of Matrix Churchill exports.

Likely verdict: Hard to see how he can escape serious censure for misleading MPs.

SIR NICHOLAS LYELL

Charge: As Attorney-General advised other ministers they had a duty to sign public interest immunity certificates before the Matrix Churchill trial, saying that to release papers to the court would be "injurious to the public interest".

Defence: Was told by the Attorney-General that he was obliged to sign.

Likely verdict: In the clear. Scott will accept that he acted in good faith, albeit on bad advice.

MALCOLM RIFKIND

Charge: As Defence Secretary signed two certificates to suppress MIS documents, claiming their disclosure could "prejudice national security".

Defence: Was acting on the advice of the Attorney-General. Publicly offered to resign if Scott found him guilty of any wrongdoing.

Likely verdict: In the clear but might have asked more questions before signing certificates.

PETER LILLEY

Charge: As Trade Secretary signed certificates to withhold papers from the Matrix Churchill defence. Also signed certificates

was acting on legal advice, including from Sir John Laws, then Treasury counsel. Likely verdict: Handling of the Matrix Churchill prosecution was bungled and the Attorney-General must take responsibility.

KENNETH CLARKE

Charge: As Home Secretary signed two certificates to suppress MIS documents, claiming their disclosure could "prejudice national security".

Defence: Was acting on the advice of the Attorney-General. Publicly offered to resign if Scott found him guilty of any wrongdoing.

Likely verdict: In the clear but might have asked more questions before signing certificates.

MICHAEL HESELTINE

Charge: Signed PII certificate designed to suppress Department of Trade and Industry documents in Matrix Churchill case.

Defence: Originally refused to sign but did so after the Attorney-General insisted. Made his misgivings abundantly clear at the time warning it would look like a "cover-up". Asked that his objections be conveyed to the Matrix Churchill defence.

Likely verdict: Damning, but impact will be diminished as he is no longer in office.

BARONESS THATCHER

Charge: Signed letters to MPs saying that guidelines on exports to Iraq had not changed. Gave similar parliamentary answer.

Defence: Was unaware of the decision to change the guidelines. "I could not have done my job as Prime Minister if I had got involved in these things."

Likely verdict: Scott will accept that any misleading on her part was inadvertent.

LORD HOWE

Charge: Signed misleading letter

in the separate but similar Ordre trial. Defence: Expressed reservations, particularly when he learned that one of the Matrix Churchill defendants was an MI6 informant, but signed on the advice of the Attorney-General.

Likely verdict: Acted in good faith but might have pursued reservations more vociferously.

ALAN CLARK

Charge: As Defence Minister he and Mr Waldegrave secretly changed wording of guidelines on exports to Iraq. Agreed not to inform Parliament. Encouraged Matrix Churchill executives to circumvent export guidelines.

Defence: Made little effort to defend himself after he had admitted in court to being "economical with the actuality".

Likely verdict: Damning, but impact will be diminished as he is no longer in office.

SIR ROBIN BUTLER

Charge: Involved in Whitehall meetings on Matrix Churchill case and was aware that Government had given a "nod and a wink". Supported withholding documents from defence. Did nothing to stop the case.

Defence: Only doing his job and had no power to interfere with Matrix Churchill case.

Likely verdict: Scott will criticise Whitehall culture of secrecy and buck-passing. Sir Robin will take much of the blame.



Sir Richard Scott, a keen cyclist, arriving at his London office yesterday

Leading article, page 19

Backbench MPs unite against Speaker's critics

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

SENIOR backbenchers from both main parties are angry at what they see as an attempt by some Tory MPs to put pressure on the Commons Speaker, Betty Boothroyd.

Friends of Miss Boothroyd have voiced irritation at a renewed whispering campaign against her over her decision last week to back Opposition demands to see the Scott report before it is published. Reports apparently inspired by Tory MPs have even hinted that she cannot count on being elected unopposed at the start of the next Parliament.

The reports have suggested that Miss Boothroyd has become increasingly political in her decisions, a charge rejected by her supporters who say that she always acts in the interests of the House and not of any particular party.

The Speaker is known to be distressed by the campaign but has told close colleagues that she has no intention of buckling in the face of what appears to be an attempt to intimidate her.

One said: "This is a strong woman and one of the most popular in the country. If

some pipsqueak in Tory Central Office believes he can put the frighteners on Betty, he must be in dreamland. The inference seems to be that unless she does what they want she won't become Speaker again. It's laughable and counter-productive."

Senior ministers are believed to have assured Miss Boothroyd that the Government is not associated with the private attacks on her. She was elected as Speaker after the 1992 election with the backing of many Tory MPs, who felt it was time for a Labour Speaker.

If Labour wins the general election her position is assured. Most MPs believe that she would also continue if the Tories won again.

Miss Boothroyd is primarily the guardian of all MPs' rights. At different times during the present Parliament she has been criticised privately by both Labour and the Tories for leaning against them in some of her judgments.

A close colleague said: "If she is getting flak from both sides she must be getting it right."

Activists are told of Harman's dismay

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

HARRIET HARMAN has written to her constituents expressing "dismay" about the problems she caused the Labour Party by sending her son to a selective grammar school.

This evening the issue is expected to be raised at a meeting of her local party's general management committee in Peckham. But Ms Harman, the Shadow Health Secretary, is unlikely to face any formal censure motion. The bulk of the party is expected to support her.

She insists in her letter that

she fully supports Labour's education policy and does not favour a return to the 11-plus examination. She justifies her decision to send her son to St Olave's in Orpington, Kent, by insisting that it was the "right choice for our son in the system it now is after 16 years of Tory attacks on education".

"I am, of course, dismayed at the problems that have faced the Labour Party as a result," she says. "I hope that the party will now re-affirm support for our education policies."

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons backbench debates followed by trade and industry select committee on the privatised utility Service Bill, renaming stages Local Government Reorganisation (Compensation for Loss of Remuneration) Regulations, the Environment Bill, Nos 211 and 247, in the Lords; Common Fisheries Policy; human rights in Turkey; Wild animals (Protection) Bill; second reading; and debate on criminal offences committed under influence of alcohol.

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Inefficient Japanese breeders create market where thieves find rich pickings from pork

Pig farmers fight to save their bacon from rustler gangs

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

A EUROPE-WIDE shortage of pork and bacon, partly caused by a surge in exports to Japan, has led to pig rustling on a grand scale, farmers and police said yesterday.

Inefficient Japanese farmers have been going out of business, forcing Japan to turn to Denmark, Europe's biggest exporter, for supplies. This has affected prices and supplies here, as the meat trade relies on Denmark to make up any shortfall.

The shortage has exacerbated the effects of a decline in the size of pig herds, sending prices soaring and creating a tempting target for well-equipped thieves.

Sergeant Nigel Webster, of North Yorkshire police, and himself a pig breeder, said: "It is big business. These thefts have coincided with a huge rise in the market value of pigs. The prices have been down for quite a while but have risen steadily during the past six months."

"We are no nearer to catching the villains. It has got to be somebody with insider know-



Pork sales have held up despite the *Babe* effect

that age the animals are worth £30 to £40 a head, a value that will treble in a few weeks after fattening.

Rears that the success of the film *Babe*, about a talking pig, would lead to a slump in pork consumption, have proved groundless, according to the Meat and Livestock Commission. "We have certainly seen no slackening in demand and reports to that effect from the United States appear to have been greatly hyped," Mr Sinclair said. Britons eat 21kg of pork and bacon a head a year, more than any other kind of meat except chicken.

Unlike cattle and sheep, which are marked with ear tags and tattoos, most pigs carry no identification, making it impossible for the police or for farmers to recognise stolen goods, even if they can be traced.

Richard Longthorp, of Howden, Humberside, lost 262 premium pigs worth about £10,500 last Saturday night from a field he rents near Retford in Nottinghamshire. "It must have taken four or five men using a four-wheel-drive vehicle and trailer to remove my pigs," he said.

"A one-ton bale of hay had to be moved to make a gap in the fence and it would have taken the gang more than an hour to carry out their work."

Mr Longthorp, who keeps 900 breeding sows producing 20,000 pigs a year, has lost about 80 other pigs during the past six months, stolen in batches of four or five at a time. He is now considering marking his stock and installing closed-circuit television

and burglar alarms. Police

think the thieves are probably in league with a rogue farmer who fattens the stolen pigs before selling them. This view is shared by John Sleightholme, of Hammsby, North Yorkshire, who lost 163 pigs worth £5,000 in a raid ten days ago.

"The thieves knew what they were after because they chose the youngest, quietest

and least troublesome animals," he said. "They must have some knowledge of pig-keeping because animals this young would die unless properly cared for. That makes me think another farmer is involved."

More and more farmers are now rearing pigs out of doors, often in remote fields, because of tougher animal welfare controls on the most intensive

indoor systems. This has made pig farms more vulnerable to theft.

Pig-rearing, one of the few sectors of European agriculture that gets no public subsidy, is notorious for its ups and downs. Three years ago pigs were fetching no more than 90 pence a kilogram deadweight, less than the cost of production, but prices are now averaging 130p a kg.

John Sleightholme, who has had 163 pigs worth £5,000 stolen: "The thieves knew what they were after"

Photo: JOHN COOK

John Sleightholme, who has had 163 pigs worth £5,000 stolen: "The thieves knew what they were after"

Fair owner fined over death

By A STAFF REPORTER

A FAIRGROUND proprietor was fined £7,500 yesterday over the death of a nine-year-old boy on one of his rides. Pat Evans, of Coney Beach Amusement Park at Portcawl, Mid Glamorgan, had admitted failing to carry out proper repair work to the water chute. He was also ordered to pay costs of £3,500.

Cardiff Crown Court was told that Timothy Morgan, from Cardiff, was one of several passengers struck by an overhead lighting gantry which fell into the path of the

car in which he was riding as he came down the chute in April 1994. He was thrown 10ft on to a tin roof.

Mr Justice Curtis said his powers of sentence were limited to a fine because of legislation under the Health and Safety at Work Act. A manslaughter charge had been considered and rejected by the prosecuting authority.

"Some might think that, as there has been a death, a more severe penalty should be imposed. But my powers are confined under this Act to a fine," he said, adding: "The fine cannot and does not bear any

relation at all to the value of the life lost or injuries inflicted for the reasons I have explained."

After the case, Timothy's father, Christopher Morgan, 47, an insurance agent who was on the ride with his older son David, 17, criticised the sentence as too lenient. He said the family had expected a substantial penalty. "It was too low and we are extremely disappointed."

Nicholas Founder, solicitor for Evans, 73, read a statement from the fairground owner expressing his "heartfelt and genuine condolences" to Timothy's family.

Spiked drink pupil recovers

By PAUL WILKINSON

JAMES FOUNTAIN, the public schoolboy who went on a ten-day "trip" after his lemonade was spiked with drugs at a dance party, is showing signs of recovery. His improvement came as police said they had a new lead in the hunt for whoever adulterated his drink.

Doctors at first feared that James, 16, from Hartlepool, had suffered permanent mental damage but he is now said to be improving in a psychiatric unit at St Luke's Hospital in Middlesbrough. However

there are no plans yet to allow him home.

For more than a week after the party, James, a fifth-former at Yarm School, near Stockton-on-Tees, was semi-conscious, could not recognise his parents Christopher and Barbara, and was unable to hold a conversation of more than a few words. Yesterday doctors said that he was speaking more clearly to his parents and for longer periods. He has also been walking about the ward he shares with other teenagers being treated for mental problems.

Nigel Charlesworth, St Luke's spokesman, said: "He is improving, but remains unwell. He is not in a critical condition but psychiatrists are still concerned about his mental state and they are unsure if he will suffer any long-term damage."

James fell ill at the party at the Hardwick Hall Hotel in Sedgefield, Co Durham, on February 3, which he attended with about 30 friends from his all-boys school. Police believe his soft drink had been laced with an unknown drug either as a cruel joke or in revenge for his efforts to dissuade his friends from taking drugs on offer at the dance.

Mawhinney wants day in court

Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, is to give evidence in court against five people accused of throwing paint at him in a protest over the Asylum Bill. Conservative Central Office said that Dr Mawhinney, his wife Betty and his parliamentary aide, Alan Duncan, wanted to appear as prosecution witnesses when the case is heard on February 28. The accused, all from London, were remanded on unconditional bail by Bow Street magistrates yesterday.

Captain charged

The captain of the world's oldest square-rigged sailing ship has been charged with manslaughter. Mark Litchfield, 55, of Bosley, Kent, is accused over the death of three crew members on the *Maria Assumpta*, which sank last May off Padstow, Cornwall.

Care home claim

An Irishwoman living in Camden north London is seeking a legal ruling that Camden council is obliged under European law to pay for her to go into a nursing home in Ireland. Lilian Kennedy, 63, from Tipperary, is paralysed after a stroke. She came to England in 1954.

Death wish

John Spiers, 36, of Lechlade, Herefordshire, who is awaiting execution in Singapore for murdering and dismembering a South African tourist, is eager to die and has said told his lawyer that he does not want to appeal for clemency, the British High Commission said.

Renovation aid

Osterley Park, in west London, one of a handful of great country houses in the capital, is to be restored by the National Trust with the aid of an £825,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The house was built by Sir Thomas Gresham and transformed by Robert Adam.

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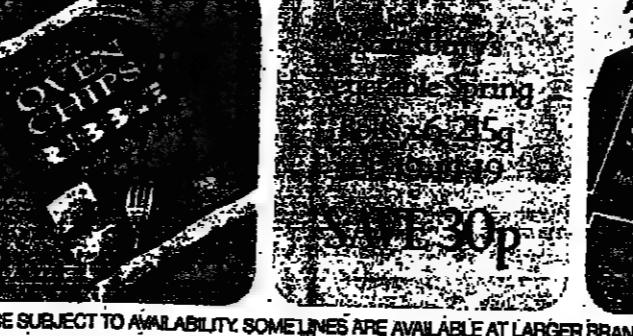
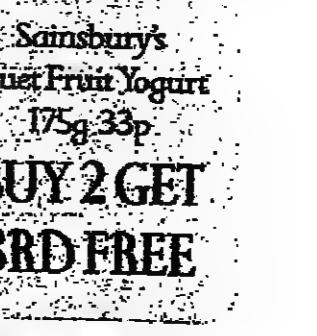
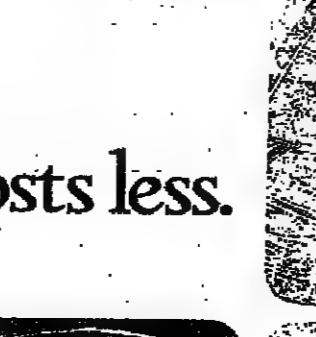
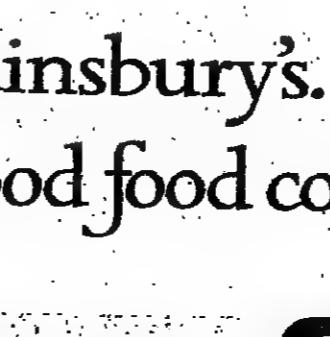
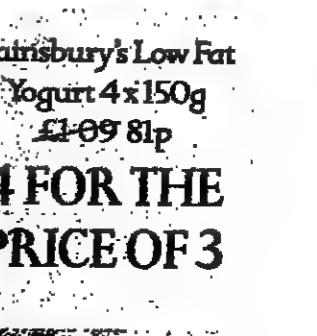
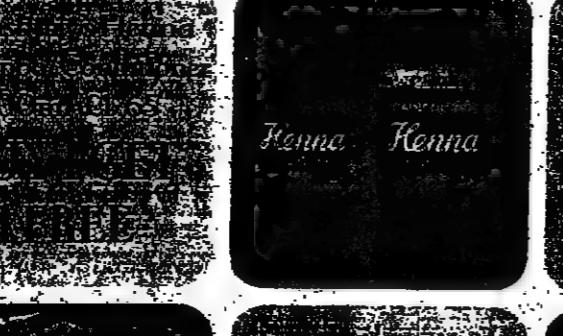
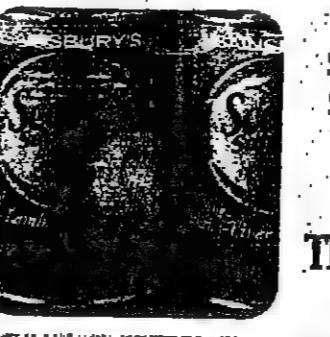
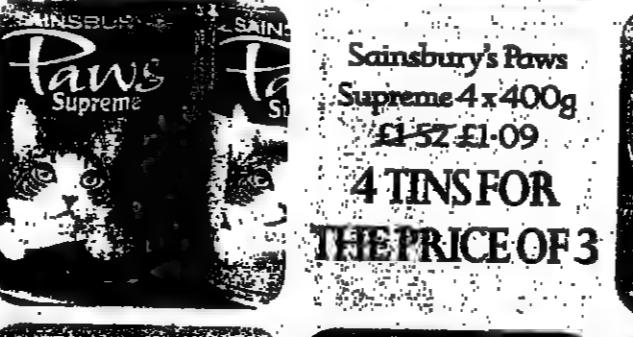
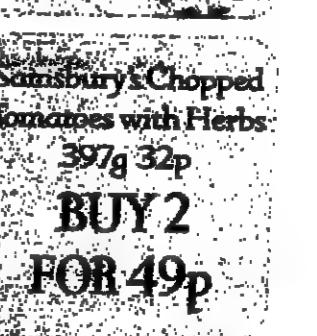
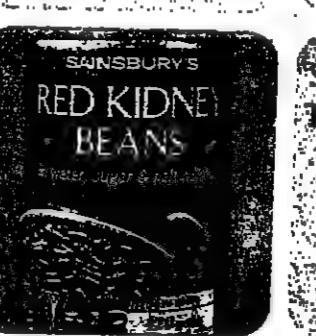
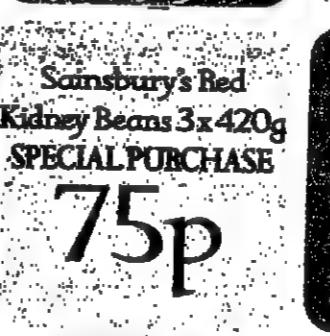
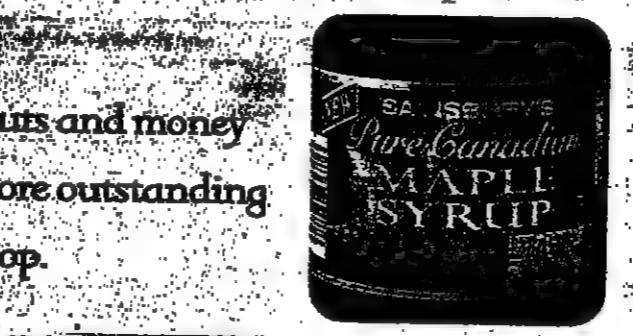
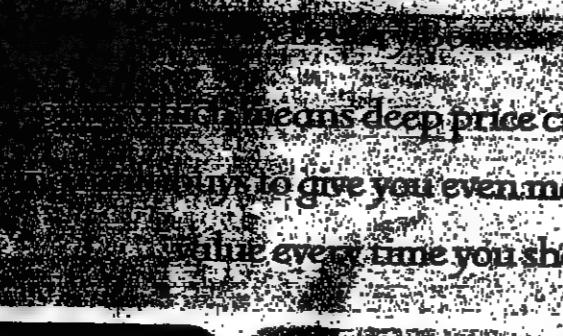
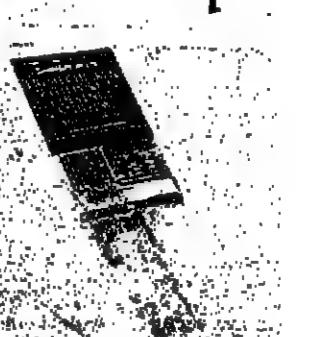
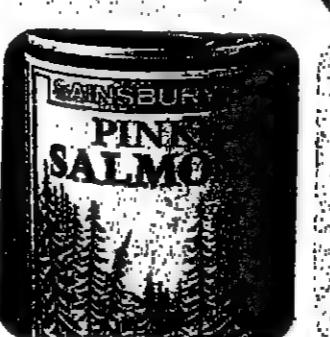
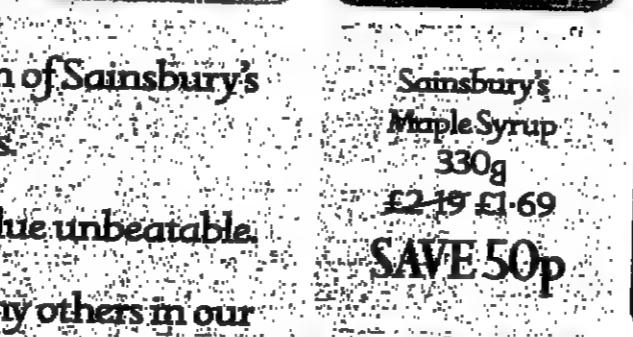
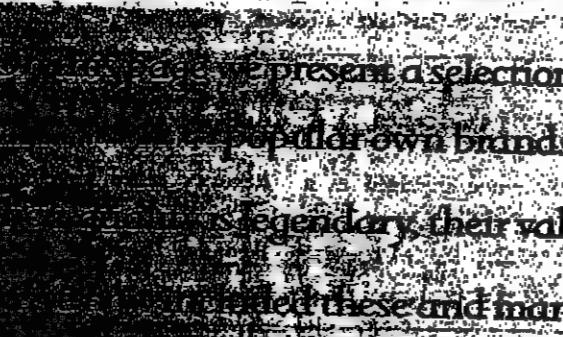
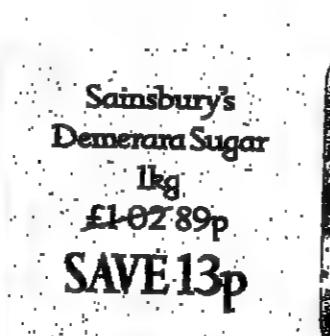
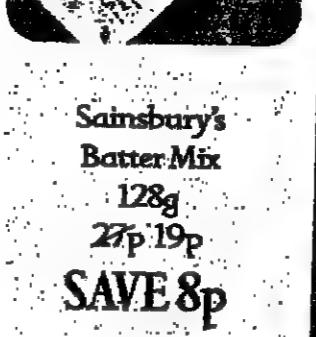
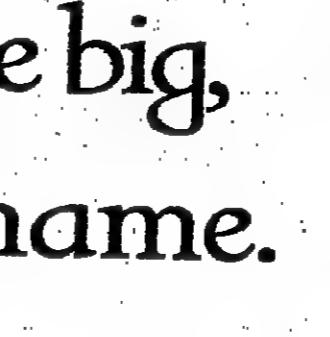
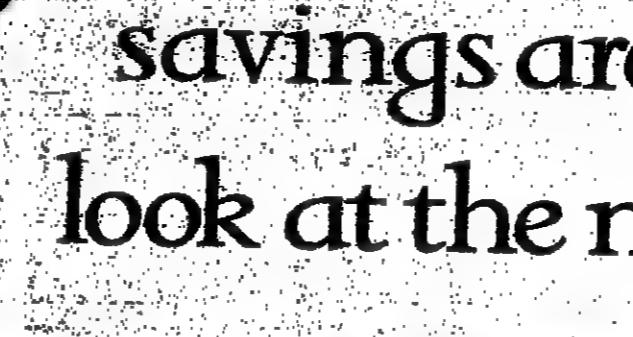
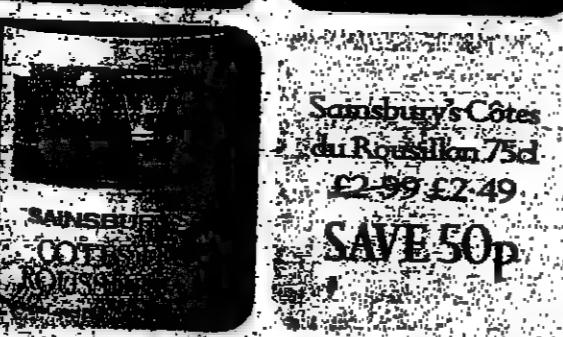
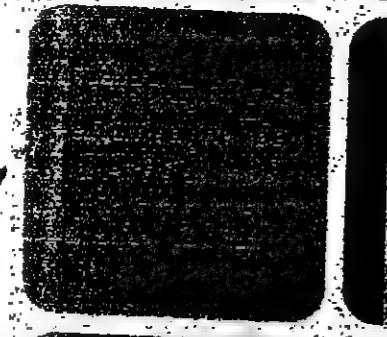
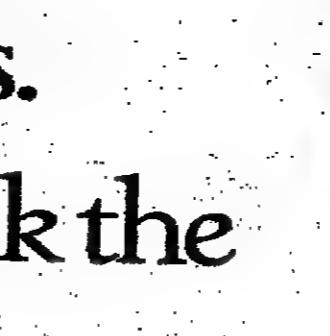
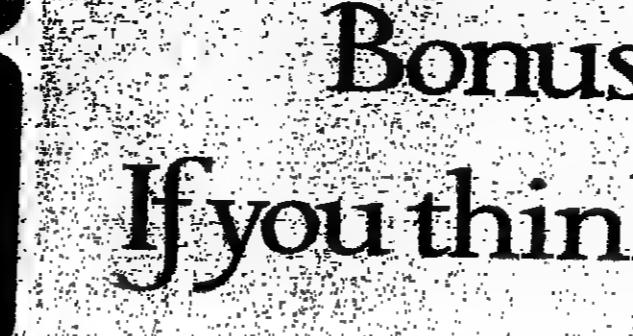
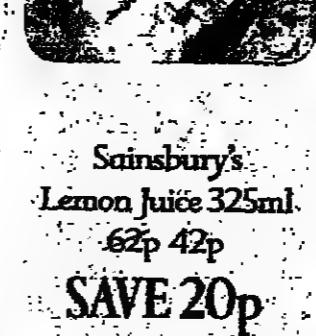
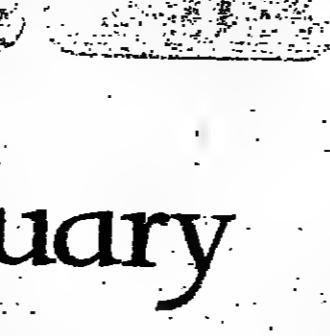
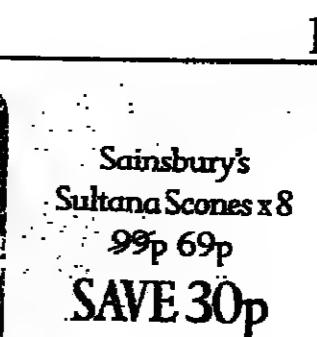
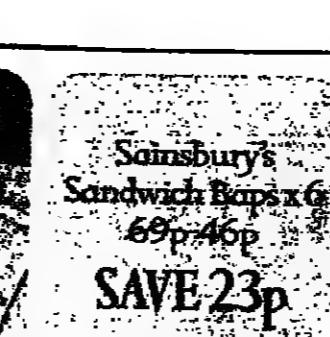
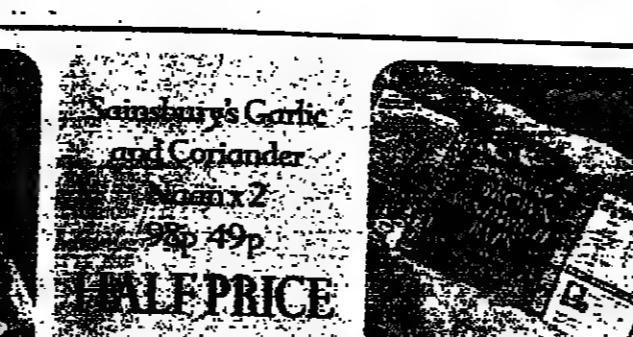
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Fatalistic Dole limps towards crucial primary

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

ROBERT DOLE's address to New Hampshire's state legislature was that of a man facing his worst nightmare.

Sounding tired and fatalistic, the septuagenarian senator made no mention of his hollow victory in Monday's Iowa caucuses. Instead he repeatedly invoked 1988, when he handsomely won Iowa only to see his presidential ambitions shattered when New Hampshire rejected him for George Bush. "Something happened I didn't really like," he recalled. "I slept like a baby — I woke up every two hours and I cried."

Mr Dole is so tantalisingly close to securing the Republican nomination in the third and final bid of a 45-year political career. It will as-

suredly be his if this enfeebled frontrunner can cling on to win next Tuesday's make-or-break New Hampshire primary, but the next six days will be among the longest and most testing of his life.

Iowa is the state that traditionally winnows the presidential field, but New Hampshire is the one that anoints the winner. It is now the snowy centre of America's political universe, and with Mr Dole's seeming lock on the state having been so grievously loosened in recent days it promises one of the most fluid and unpredictable contests in its history.

Mr Dole had hoped to gain unstoppable momentum from a thumping victory in Iowa. He had expected his principal

opponents to be Steve Forbes, the publishing tycoon, and Phil Gramm, the Texas senator. Instead he limped eastwards from Iowa, his fellow Mid-Westerners having given him the most tepid of endorsements, and finds himself squeezed from left and right by the suddenly surging candidacies of Lamar Alexander and Pat Buchanan.

To an extraordinary extent Mr Forbes, who led New Hampshire's polls before his dismal Iowa performance, seems now to have been written off and he cancelled all appearances on Tuesday to reassess his strategy.

Mr Buchanan is so pumped up by his strong second place in Iowa that aides say he cannot sleep. He and his passionate "Buchanan brigades" are storming round the state where he captured 37 per cent of the vote against President Bush four years ago, and the outrageously outspoken Manchester Union Leader, New Hampshire's only statewide newspaper, is roaring him on.

Mr Dole is moving to blunt Mr Buchanan's appeal by criticising corporate greed, the United Nations and the "liberal education establishment", but risks a wholesale defection of more centrist voters to Mr Alexander. The former Tennessee governor is a slick but attractive operator who is cleverly positioning himself as a moderate with a radical message, the "safe" outsider, and the Republican most capable of defeating Mr Clinton.

The mantle of true conservative has passed to Pat Buchanan, the radical commentator who had eclipsed the Texan in Alaska, Louisiana and most prominently in Iowa this week.

Gramm quits race

Washington: The Republican race for the American presidency claimed its first real casualty yesterday when Phil Gramm, the beleaguered Texan senator, abandoned his once promising quest for the White House (Tom Rhodes writes).

Mr Gramm, whose relentless drive and strong organisation had made him an early favourite for 1996, had been unable to find a powerful constituency among the electorate and announced his decision in Washington. "When the voters speak, I listen," he said. Before leaving New Hampshire, he said: "When you run fifth in Iowa,

an important state, you would have to be brain dead not to take a look at where you are and what you're doing."

The previous evening had been spent telling supporters that he was no longer a viable candidate. He now joins two earlier but less established victims of the presidential election process, Arlen Specter, the Pennsylvania senator, and Pete Wilson, the Governor of California.

The mantle of true conservative has passed to Pat Buchanan, the radical commentator who had eclipsed the Texan in Alaska, Louisiana and most prominently in Iowa this week.

A jubilant Joan Collins heads for a night of champagne celebrations after her \$3 million triumph in New York

Collins win 'will rewrite book deals'

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

JOAN COLLINS was "still on a high" in her New York hotel yesterday morning after her court victory over her publisher, Random House.

At Random House there were similarly foggy heads — not from celebrating the outcome of the \$4 million case, but from the woeful slapping of palms on brows.

The bottom line of a complicated court result was that Miss Collins, sued by Random House for failing to deliver satisfactory manuscripts for two novels, will see \$3 million worth of her original \$4 million contract. She left the court with a fist raised in

triumph, said she was "thrilled" and headed for a night of champagne. Judy Bryer, her assistant, said yesterday morning: "We are still wrapped up in the excitement of everything. It was so wonderful."

New York publishing sources suggested that it may take longer for Random House and Alberto Vitale, its bombastic chairman, to recover. The court heard that a "star-struck" Mr Vitale played a significant part in the valuable contract.

Her late agent, Irving "Swift" Lazar, extracted not only big money but also

unusually accommodating conditions for his client. Random House effectively signed away its rights to complain about the quality of her manuscript.

Mr Vitale was originally

due to give evidence in the New York Supreme Court case, and was so horrified by the prospect that he secured an agreement that his face would not be shown clearly on the court television that broadcast the case live every day. It would instead be obscured by a "blue dot", a demand which drew derision from New York commentators. If Mr Vitale's reputation has taken a batter-

ing, the same is true of the general name of celebrity authors — people who allow their names to appear on a book of which they have sometimes written only a fraction.

Publishing sources speculate that the case will make publishers more wary about paying vast sums to inexperienced writers. It may also, however, encourage publishers to treat authors better.

Miss Collins said that she hopes "Hell Hath No Fury", one of the manuscripts rejected by Random House, will now be issued by a different publisher.

Colombo navy sinks rebel ship

Colombo: Sri Lankan Air Force aircraft and Navy gunboats destroyed a rebel ship off the northeastern coast yesterday and a huge explosion rocked a tourist resort north of Colombo, military officials and police said.

Security was tightened in the capital with the Government ordering all schools closed until further notice because of fears of attacks by Tamil Tiger guerrillas. The military could not pinpoint the site of the explosion near the resort. The ship sunk was believed to be carrying arms for the Tigers. (Reuters)

Trapped skiers are rescued

Grenoble: Eight German skiers, two of them suffering from frostbite, were rescued after being trapped for two days in a makeshift igloo in the French Alps. Members of the group said they had to beat one woman to keep her awake on the remote mountain side fearing she would freeze to death if she slept. The five men and three women were cut off in a blizzard near the Madeleine pass. (Reuters)

Aid focus on Asia and Africa

London: Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the Overseas Development Minister, said she was disappointed by cuts to Britain's aid programme and hoped her budget would be restored. (Eve-Ann Prentice writes). She told the Royal Institute of International Affairs the Government would give more aid to the poorer countries of Africa and Asia.

Tunnel boulder blasted away

Tokyo: Rescue workers managed to demolish a 50,000-tonne boulder, which crushed a road tunnel in northern Japan at the weekend, trapping 20 people inside. A rescue mission is expected to be launched into the tunnel today. The blasting of the boulder was televised live. (Reuters)

US medical endorsement smooths the way for wrinkle cream profits

BY QUENTIN LETTS

WRINKLE treatments have crossed the American pharmacy floor, from cosmetics to the chemist's counter. After an unprecedented Food and Drug Administration (FDA) endorsement, an anti-ageing cream is being dispensed on prescription.

Renova, a cream which is said to reduce facial lines, was given the

FDA approval a month ago and has just gone on sale to brisk trade. Skin lotions and ointments have previously been the preserve of beauty departments, but the Renova breakthrough heralds a more medical image for such applications.

The FDA endorsement was cautious. It approved Renova only for light-skinned people under the age of 50, and demanded that packets

carry the statement that the cream "does not eliminate" wrinkles or repair sun-damaged skin. However, it could reduce fine facial lines and the "appearance" of wrinkles.

Renova, which costs \$60 (£39) for a six-month supply, includes Retin-A, which is also used for teenage spots. During tests some people complained that Renova dried out the skin, sometimes causing irritation and burning. "Patients" are

told to place six "pea-sized" drops across the face once a day and then rub it in evenly. Larger doses make no difference. Nor would Renova have helped extreme cases such as W.H. Auden. Deep-gorge wrinkles are beyond its capabilities and Renova is not a preventative.

Johnson & Johnson, the maker of the cream, expects first-year sales of \$175 million and is marketing the cream in a sober manner. Manufac-

turers have long indulged in a tyranny of techno-speak, paining dubious scientific names and vitamin strains, but the FDA endorsement of Renova has taken matters a step further. Photosensitisers such as "aztreonam", "sofomacetone" and "fluorouracil" are now the talk of Manhattan salad bars. You can barely move for talk of "reduced mottled hyperpigmentation" and the pore-pumping wonders of

Renova's active ingredient tretinoin. Modern America views wrinkles with the sort of horror medieval Londoners would treat the first cough-up spot of blood on a handkerchief. Anti-ageing expert Julia Busch, author of *It's Not Your Face Like A Sales!* said yesterday: "We are ... a youth-oriented society where jobs and relationships depend on age. People are going to rush out and buy Renova."

Telephone mortgage experts help homeowners exploit rate cuts

BY STEVEN DEPUT

WITH INTEREST rates at their lowest point for a generation and expectations of further falls in the months to come, there has never been a better time to arrange a cheap mortgage.

Lenders are falling over themselves to win over potential borrowers, offering tempting deals both to home buyers and those who want to re-mortgage. Making the right choice could easily save you hundreds, or even thousands of pounds a year.

The rapid expansion of mortgage lending over the telephone in the past year is part of the same financial revolution that has brought cheap insurance and 24-hour banking to millions of homes. Today, the right mortgage choice can be just a call away.

Not surprisingly, a number of High Street lenders now claim to offer the same service to their customers.

But as with most claims, some promise more than they deliver. Often, the mortgage you are offered is no cheaper than you would get by queuing in a branch. Some lenders will not complete the deal until you go in to see them.

FirstMortgage does not operate under the same old branch-based system as most other lenders. This allows it to cut overheads, passing on the savings to its customers in the form of cheaper loans. Form-filling is taken care of by FirstMortgage, saving you time and cutting out endless frustration.

All it takes to arrange that mortgage is a free call on 0800 0800 88, typically lasting no more than 15 minutes, to a consultant at the company's central offices.

FirstMortgage consultants are on hand to answer your questions about the best kind of mortgage to pick in today's climate. Because everyone has special needs, they are also there to advise on the best options to suit your individual circumstances.

Any questions you may have about the suitability of a particular loan are answered in a clear, jargon-free manner. Unlike other lenders who may also try to sell you a whole package of

financial products, home loans are the only business for FirstMortgage.

Callers are asked the usual questions about their property, any existing loan and personal circumstances.

An application form is filled in by the consultant and the mortgage can be agreed in principle by FirstMortgage at the end of the call, subject to normal conditions. If you agree, the form is immediately printed out with your details and sent to you. All you then have to do is sign and return it.

FirstMortgage has loans to suit all individual circumstances. Where it can't find the right product for you from its own range, the company can provide market-beating offers from other lenders to ensure you get the best deal possible.

For example, many experts now believe it is highly likely that mortgage interest rates will fall even further in the next few months.

This belief is fuelled by a combination of factors, including the Chancellor's anticipated decision to lower base rates further, the continuing mortgage price war, plus the decision by some building societies to offer "loyalty" bonuses to their existing members.

You can gain from this by choosing a discounted mortgage, where the interest you pay is pegged several points below the prevailing rate. That way, if interest rates fall, so does the cost of your loan.

FirstMortgage now has a deal available that cuts up to 3.25 per cent off the existing average variable rate of 7.49 per cent for two years. It then moves back to the variable rate, which is guaranteed for five years to reflect the average rate offered by the top five building societies. Whatever happens, you don't lose out. Discounts of up to 2.25 per cent are on offer over a three-year period.

For those who prefer the security of knowing exactly how much their outgoings will be over several years, FirstMortgage has a competitive range of two, three and five-year

fixed rate options. Both FirstMortgage's fixed and discounted mortgages are available without the usual set-up fees, to which case a slightly higher interest rate applies.

Whatever your needs, the chances are there is a FirstMortgage loan which can be tailored to meet them. Trained consultants are on hand between 8.00am and 7.00pm, Monday to Friday, to answer any queries.

As with all mortgage lending, loans are secured on your property and are subject to status. A suitable life insurance policy is also required.

The APR is based on a typical example of a repayment loan of £45,000 for a house purchase of £50,000.

The loan term is 25 years with a discounted variable rate of interest of 4.24 per cent per annum for the first

two years and thereafter at the equivalent variable rate (assumed to be 4.24 per cent p.a.).

The loan will be repaid after 300 monthly payments of £246.17 (£237.94 net of MIRAS) on £50,000 at 15 per cent p.a.

The total amount payable is £73,346, including legal fees of £2250, arrangement fee of £275, a valuation fee of £240 and a money transfer fee of £245, all of which are inclusive of VAT.

Before calling FirstMortgage for your free quote, consider the following: Do you have at least 10 per cent equity or deposit? Do you have a clean credit history with no mortgage arrears? Do you want to save time by arranging your loan over the phone? Do you want a mortgage that will save you money?

If the answer is yes to all the above then phone 0800 0800 88.

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SPORT 38-44

Is the go-faster plaster simply a fashion accessory?

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 15 1996



Boning up: David Hudd, left, chairman of Vardon and Nick Irene, chief executive, at the London Dungeon before reporting that a hot summer and the National Lottery restricted growth of profits by the company, which owns the London Dungeon and Sea Life Centres. Organic growth and

acquisitions helped pre-tax profits to rise by 24 per cent, to £9.14 million, in the year to December 31. New openings helped attendance at the 22 Sea Life Centres to rise by 14 per cent, to 4.6 million, but like-for-like visits fell by 7 per cent. The Ritz Clubs bingo operation felt the impact of the National

Lottery and scratchcards. New openings, making 17 bingo clubs, helped turnover to grow by 53 per cent. Vardon has bought the Warmwell Leisure Resort in Dorset, for £6.1 million. An improved final dividend of 1.25p (1.125p), due on May 3, gives an increased total of 1.65p (1.5p). Tempus, page 26

Unilever to buy hair care group for £488m

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

UNILEVER, the Anglo-Dutch foods and household goods group that last week announced a restructuring operation across its divisions which would cost £225 million, is to spend £488 million on the acquisition of Helene Curtis, the hair care group.

The company, whose shares slipped after Procter & Gamble revealed an aggressive price-cutting campaign in household products to fend off own-label rivals, said the purchase would be an important boost to its personal care division which accounts for 15 per cent of Unilever's sales.

Acquisition of Helene Curtis, which produces Selsun Selectives and Finesse, takes Unilever to number two in the worldwide hair care stakes after L'Oréal and also gives it exposure to North America where the company is currently poorly represented in that division. Robert Phillips, the director responsible for personal products, said: "Helene Curtis has strong brands in the North America hair care and deodorant markets and this acquisition will improve our position which has been underrepresented in comparison with our international presence."

The purchase will be earnings dilutive in the short term, but Unilever says the building of critical mass will justify the dilution. The group has already this month bought the Irish arm of Lyons Tea for £78 million. Last month, it paid £360 million for a Canadian detergent producer.

Tempus, page 26

Late-payers 'keep small firms waiting 77 days'

By ROSS TYERMAN AND JAMES LANDALE

DEMANDS for a law obliging companies to pay interest on overdue debts were given fresh impetus after a survey suggested small firms are owed £128 billion by their customers.

A Private Member's Bill was introduced in the Commons yesterday by Jon Owen Jones, Labour MP for Cardiff Central, calling for a statutory right to interest on late payments.

To coincide with its publication, the Forum of Private Business said a survey of 2,838 members showed an average 77-day wait for payment of bills that should have been settled in a month.

Typically, firms surveyed were owed more than £120,000 by other businesses and customers, but owed their suppliers less than £60,000. If the figures were multiplied across Britain's one million small firms, companies would be owed £28 billion, while they owed little more than half as much, £63 billion, to their suppliers.

A second survey, by NOP for Business Pages, found 70 per cent of small businesses identified late payment as a serious problem – and 54 per cent blamed larger companies. The remark by Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister, that he was "skillful at

stringing along creditors" has lifted the late payment issue high on the political agenda. Urging support for Mr Jones' Bill, Stan Mendham, Forum chief executive, said there was now clear evidence that a statutory right to interest would benefit small firms.

And he attacked Mr Heseltine for his remark, which, he said, "sends out the message that is acceptable to use suppliers' money to finance a business at their risk". The Government has already signalled it may abandon its long-standing reluctance to legislate on the problem. In a parliamentary written answer on January 11, Richard Page, the Small Business Minister, said he had "decided to look again at the arguments for and against statutory interest". A review has been launched, with the findings to be published in the summer.

Responding to Opposition attacks yesterday, ministers said yesterday that Government departments were paying more of their bills on time and the late-payment situation was getting better. Mr Page said that the Department of Trade and Industry paid 93 per cent of its bills within 30 days. The Government recognises the problems

late payment of invoices can cause, particularly for small businesses. It is important that the public sector leads by example by settling its bills on time."

He said that Angela Knight, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, who is responsible for Whitehall payment policies, had instructed all departments to abide by the CBI prompt payments code and to publicise their payment policies.

The CBI code sets no time targets, but says companies should agree payment terms and dates when drawing up contracts, and stick to them. But Mr Page insisted: "There is no magic button that can be pressed that will make small businessmen and women get paid on time."

The minister was responding to Ann Coffey, Labour MP for Stockport, who said that the Government's £230 million of late-paid bills in 1994/95 was "disgraceful".

Barbara Roche, Labour's trade spokeswoman, said that the minister was being complacent about the number of businesses that the Government was threatening by paying its own bills late.



Heseltine: "stringing creditors along"

Court told of missions for Nadir

By JON ASHTON

ASIL NADIR'S former financial adviser was sent to Switzerland to stop "terrified" bankers selling up to £300 million in shares amid fears of a catastrophic stock market crash, and not to launder stolen funds, a court heard yesterday.

The former chairman of Polly Peck International telephoned Elizabeth Forsyth from New York after stock markets plunged in October 1989, and instructed her to collect

"hold the hand" of worried bankers in Geneva. Mr Nadir was concerned that a fall in stock market values would trigger margin calls against shares held as security for personal loans.

Geoffrey Robertson, QC, outlined the case for Mrs Forsyth on the second day of her trial at the Central Criminal Court, where she denies two counts of handling stolen funds. While in Geneva, she was allegedly asked to collect

£400,000 in cash "as a favour" for Jason Davies, a stockbroking friend of Mr Nadir's son.

She had no reason to suspect that there was anything suspicious in the transaction.

Mr Nadir, the court heard, was at the height of his fame and wealth at the time. He entertained cabinet ministers at his table and donated substantial sums to the Conservative Party. Mrs Forsyth's role was to liaise with bankers and accountants. She was in

no sense "the brains behind his empire".

Earlier, the court heard how Mrs Forsyth took the perilous step of transporting £400,000 in cash in a briefcase, some of which was duly brought back to the UK. Some £88,050 was used to boost the fertility of a herd of bulls on Mr Nadir's farm in Leicester — one of various private assets which included works of art, racehorses and stately homes.

The case continues.

Apple boss in pay super-league

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

GILBERT AMELIO, the new chairman and chief executive of Apple Computer, which is facing severe financial problems and has been forced to suspend dividends, has joined the super-league of top-earning American executives.

He will be paid at least \$10 million a year in cash and shares for the next five years, documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission disclose. His remuneration could be higher if Apple's share price recovers.

Mr Amelio, 52, is also guaranteed a \$10 million "golden parachute" if the company is sold within the next year. He received a \$200,000 one-off bonus for signing up with Apple two weeks ago.

His pay package puts him in the same earnings bracket as the executives of some of America's largest companies, such as John Welch, head of General Electric, and Wayne Calloway, of PepsiCo. Apple,

however, is in a state of crisis. Losses hit \$69 million in the last quarter and will be higher in the current one. Its shares, which stood at about \$50 a few months ago, are now at about \$28.

Mr Amelio's basic bonus and salary is \$2.5 million. He also gets 200,000 Apple stock each year and the option to buy a million more.

Pennington, page 25

Apple vow, page 27

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Home-losers 'may be victims of bad advice'

By ROBERT MILLER

UP TO 100,000 people who have lost their homes in the past five years may have been the victims of bad or negligent advice by mortgage lenders, according to an authoritative survey scheduled to be published next week.

The report, which is backed by the National Association of Citizens Advice (NACAB), claims that lenders have surrendered endowment policies linked to home

loans rather than selling them on in the second-hand market.

The difference can be significant and often runs into thousands of pounds that is added to any outstanding debt after a house has been repossessed and still remains the responsibility of the borrower.

Now the money advice units of NACAB have been alerted to look out for a potential legal test case. Stuart Davidson, specialist money adviser at NACAB, said: "Lenders have a duty of care towards their

borrowers. We want to see a proper procedure introduced in repossession cases where, if a mortgage-linked endowment policy is to be sold, all the options are explored to secure the best deal for the consumer. If a policy has not been assigned over to the lender, then that lender should inform the borrower of the second-hand endowment market."

The three-year research project was conducted by Kingswood and Scottish Endowment Consultants, specialist firms in the market. A

number of leading building societies were contacted, including the Halifax, Britannia, West Bromwich and the Woolwich.

The researchers concluded that while some lenders were prepared to consider alternatives to surrendering, many dismissed the second-hand endowment market 'out of hand'.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders, whose members represent 98 per cent of the UK retail home loans market, said that the decision to

surrender a policy or try to sell it on to someone else was a matter for individual members.

Brian Foster, of Kingswood, said: "In my opinion, lenders do not seem to consider the alternatives to surrendering policies. The Financial Services Act is designed to protect the public against bad advice and negligence resulting in financial loss. In fact, it has created an environment where people are being denied the level of advice they surely need at a time when they need it most."

Industry urged to link with education

By LINDSAY COOK
BUSINESS EDITOR

SOME 92 per cent of secondary schools and 58 per cent of primary schools have links with local businesses. Lord Henley, Minister of State for Education and Employment, said yesterday, but further involvement will be encouraged in the spring.

He was speaking at a lunch to mark the production of *The Times 100* education project, designed to bridge the gap between education and industry. The pack of case studies of leading companies has been issued to 6,000 secondary schools and colleges with business studies courses, to be used by 750,000 students.

Lord Henley said that involvement in education by business was a "sound investment that will pay dividends". He said his department was currently looking at ways it could expand the work experience scheme for 14- to 16-year-olds and will be issuing a consultative document in the spring. Currently 30 per cent of businesses involve them selves in education.

The Times 100 project was launched to provide more up-to-date information about the challenges facing business and industry and how these are dealt with. It is intended to counter the negative view students have of British industry.

A survey carried out by the Centre for Applied Social and Organisational Research of the University of Derby last year showed that just 22 per cent of 16- to 19-year-olds saw themselves working in industry. More than half of the participating students had such a poor knowledge of British industry that they could not name three top British companies.

Sponsors of *The Times 100* include Abbey National, Allied Domecq, British Steel, Cadbury Schweppes, Coca-Cola, Ford Motor Company, John Lewis Partnership, Kodak, Midland Bank, National Power and Norwich Union.

Dunedin sale likely to be announced

THE agreed sale of Dunedin, Scotland's second-largest investment house with more than £5 billion under management to Edinburgh Fund Managers for between £75 million and £90 million is expected to be announced tomorrow.

Bank of Scotland, which has a 51 per cent stake in Dunedin through the British Linen Bank, will unveil the details of the sale provided to Edinburgh, which beat off a rival bid from Ivory & Sime and which manages some £3 billion of funds, to raise the money, possibly through a share offer. The sale of Dunedin follows the departure of a number of key executives.

Oriel up on bid talk

SHARES in Oriel, the insurance broker, jumped 39p to 188p yesterday amid speculation that Aon Corporation, the Chicago insurer, might bid for it. Oriel, which earned pre-tax profits of about £2 million in the half year to June 30, confirmed receiving "tentative approaches from a number of parties". However, Nigel Cayer, chairman, said it had "not received a formal offer proposal". Aon is one of America's six-biggest insurance brokers. Oriel is a small broker specialising in mechanical warranties of the type applied to second-hand cars.

MMC inquiry extended

AN INQUIRY by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission into the supply of electrical goods is to be extended after the MMC said it needed more time to investigate price determination by manufacturers. It had been due to report by the end of April. The investigation was initiated by the Director General of Fair Trading last year. His office found that some makers of electrical goods were refusing to supply shops that were undercutting manufacturers' recommended retail prices. Discount clubs and out-of-town retail chains were most affected.

Braas confirms sales dip

REDLAND, the UK building materials company, is considering injecting some of its Dutch and Belgian tile operations into Braas, its 50.8 per cent-owned German subsidiary. Yesterday, Braas confirmed that sales fell by 4.7 per cent to DM2.16 billion in 1995 and gave warning of a similar decline in 1996. Paul Hewitt, finance director of Redland, said that Braas would concentrate on improving efficiency in 1996. Redland receives a cash dividend of about £50 million a year from its investment in Braas.

Gas rivalry hots up

CALORTEX, the joint gas venture between Calor and Texaco, has moved to seize the initiative in the increasingly fierce marketing arena in the South West ahead of the gas competition trial, with a guarantee to start competitive pricing in April. Calortex, which is offering two price dependent on usage, says its rates will reduce an average bill of £350 a year by £85. The move is likely to increase pressure among new suppliers coming into the market and sharpen marketing strategies, some of which have been condemned by the Gas Consumers Council.

Flying Flowers soars

FLYING FLOWERS, the fresh flowers express distribution company, increased its profit before tax to £2.64 million from £1.8 million in the year to December 29, aided by the completion of a new glasshouse in Jersey, which has the capacity to grow 20 million plants at one time. Turnover advanced to £26.1 million from £14.5 million. Earnings were 10.65p a share, compared with 7.69p. There will be a final gross dividend of 2.7p a share, increased from 2p. The shares rose 4p to 140p.

Turbine order won

COOPER ROLLS, an equally-owned joint venture between Cooper Cameron Corporation, of Houston, Texas, and Rolls-Royce, the UK aero-engines company, has secured orders for nine turbines for gas compression and power generation valued at nearly \$100 million, it was announced yesterday. Included in the orders are the first Cobra gas turbines destined for Slovakia, Pakistan and Italy. Other units are destined for Russia and Malaysia.

Labour's nuclear threat

LABOUR yesterday pressed the Government for a last-minute ditching of the sell-off of the nuclear power industry and said a Labour government would not guarantee to pay off the industry's liabilities. British Energy, the holding company for Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear, is locked in talks with the DTI over how much of the liabilities for decommissioning old power stations and dealing with spent fuel should be carried by the company. British Energy wants to go into the private sector with as few liabilities as possible.

Benson's reduces loss

BENSONS CRISPS, the snacks manufacturer, reduced its pre-tax losses to £747,000, from £6.7 million, in the year to November 30, in spite of a £933,000 charge against an asset write-down. The core business earned profits of £221,000 before tax and exceptional costs, recovering from a loss of £3.5 million previously. Losses per share eased to 1p, from 25.3p. There is again no dividend. After a year of substantial restructuring, gearing has been reduced to 64 per cent, from 251 per cent. The shares were unchanged at 23p yesterday.

Taxpayers hand £5bn 'bonus' to Revenue

By SARA MCCONNELL

THIRTY MILLION people will hand the taxman a total of £5.5 billion in unnecessary tax this year, or an average of £190 each, because they are not using their allowances and do not understand the tax regime, according to a report published yesterday.

Next year, a further £1.1 billion could be lost by taxpayers failing to fill in returns correctly under a radical new system of self-assessment.

The report, commissioned by IFA Promotion, which promotes independent financial advisers, described the amount of lost tax as "staggering". Mintel, which calculated the figures on behalf of IFA Promotion, said that the £5.5 billion tax waste represented 7.7 per cent of all personal tax collected this year.

Savers wasted £1.06 billion by failing to make use of tax-free deposit accounts like tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas) and by not registering to receive building society interest gross. This topped the list of 11 key areas identified by IFA Promotion.

Failure to plan ahead leads

to beneficiaries incurring a total bill of £930 million for inheritance tax, which could have been avoided. A further £860 million is wasted by holders of unit trusts not using their annual personal equity plan allowances to earn income and capital gains free of tax.

More than a million people have lost up to £540 million by not manipulating their investments to make the best use of personal allowances. Many are married couples where only one is working but who do not transfer investments into the name of the non-working spouse to make use of his or her allowances.

Up to £370 million is wasted by 500,000 employees over the age of 45 who are higher-rate taxpayers in company pension schemes but who are not making extra, tax-efficient payments to additional voluntary contribution plans. Small shareholders are paying up to £325 million of unnecessary capital gains tax by not using exemptions properly, or not making use of Peps.

Inland Revenue errors combined with penalties and interest for late payment of tax waste a further £20 million.

The advent of self-assessment will be costly for taxpayers, says Mintel. Under this system, the nine million people who receive tax returns will either have to calculate their own tax or supply detailed figures so that the Revenue can do it for them. There will be strict deadlines for filing returns and penalties for overshooting them.

Using the experience of Australian taxpayers under self-assessment as a model, Mintel calculates that penalties for late filing could total £15 million.

Tax charges and penalties for mistakes could cost £878 million. The self-employed could incur one-off costs totalling £220 million during the changeover from the present system to the new.



Sound investment: Lord Henley says involvement in education by business will pay dividends

Gold shines in record year

By COLIN CAMPBELL, MINING CORRESPONDENT

GOLD, now back in fashion after January's burst through the psychological \$400-an-ounce barrier, enjoyed record demand in 1995.

Last year, and in spite of some softening in the fourth quarter, gold demand in the markets monitored by the World Gold Council reached 2,746 tonnes, a 10 per cent increase on 1994 figures and 7.6 per cent higher than the previous record in 1992.

In a current assessment, Helen Junz, director of the WGC Gold Economics Service, said the case for gold was still fundamentally strong — "even

if growth rates fall back to more normal one-digit levels".

WGC's latest quarterly *Gold Demand Trends* survey says: "With gold prices decisively breaking through the long-established constraining price ceiling, the rally has gained credibility, helped by further interest rate declines."

Eleven markets registered gold demand of more than 100 tonnes in 1995, compared with nine in 1994. Demand in four countries — Hong Kong, Thailand, Taiwan and China — was weaker last year.

However, in India, demand

jumped 14 per cent to a record

474 tonnes. Fresh records were also set in Indonesia, Malaysia and South Korea. In Turkey, demand improved by 7.3 per cent above depressed 1994 levels to 139 tonnes.

Japan and Germany "registered an unprecedented increase in investment demand".

In Britain, jewellery demand made strong progress and was up 13 per cent to 39.3 tonnes. And in the US, for the fourth consecutive year, consumption reached record levels at 327.2 tonnes, 5 per cent up on 1994 levels. The WGC notes that in spite of the apparent narrow range in which gold

moved in dollars last year, there was considerable movement and activity in other currencies.

The WGC points out that

price spikes, though confusing to consumers, do not necessarily choke off consumption/investment demand.

In many markets, rises in the gold price have been relatively easily absorbed, helped, in part, by the strength of growth in incomes, ensuring that 1995 was a year in which gold convincingly demonstrated its basic attributes: indestructibility, and security in times of financial uncertainty.

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Further shake-up among mutuals? Bank comes clean on inflation forecast Cold comfort for auditors

THE smoke screens being put up by Scottish Amicable are not as effective at deflecting attention as they might be.

The mutual insurer has already hinted that it is not wedded to the concept of mutuality. Behind the scenes, there is a great deal of activity, and demutualisation, in one form or another, is on the cards.

Scottish Amicable recognises that it has three options. It can stand still – but this is not an option today. It could seek a stock market listing, or team up with a third party.

In an ideal world, Scottish Amicable would head for the stock market. One million with profit life customers who effectively own the company would then share the proceeds of an estimated £1 billion market valuation. A flotation would provide the flexibility to obtain extra capital to compete for the limited amounts of new business around in what is becoming an increasingly competitive market.

However, it would also make Scottish Amicable vulnerable to a hostile takeover. It is not big enough to remain independent for long. With £9.7 billion under management, Scottish Amicable is Scotland's third biggest mutual insurer after Standard Life and Scottish Widows.

Any predator would avoid the need to pay a hefty premium to

Friendly deal for Scottish Amicable

embedded value and could simply await its arrival on the stock market and follow the disciplined approach of the Takeover Code. This makes the third option, acquisition by a third party, the most likely option.

With this in mind, Scottish Amicable has appointed Tillinghast, the actuaries, to conduct a valuation and SBC Warburg, the investment bank, to examine the

dictated a wish to expand its life assurance business.

Sun Alliance, Commercial Union and even Norwich Union, which is planning a float of its own next year, would also make sense. Aegon or Fortis, two Continental insurers, might be attractive to the management since they could offer firmer guarantees of independence.

Scottish Amicable needs to get a move on. The insurer can point to a reasonable investment performance and a good brand name. But talks with prospective partners should start soon, before all the best ones have been snapped up.

New face on an old coin

NEVER let it be said that the Bank of England ignores criticism. In yesterday's Inflation Report, the Bank went out of its way to respond to its detractors.

There were pretty charts in purple and orange and a new section that comes clean on its own forecasting record, both innovations presented to the

PENNINGTON



world for the first time by Mervyn King, the Bank's director of economics, with all the pride of a new father.

The charts, one of which is reproduced in today's Economic View (page 27), are designed to deflect attention away from the Bank's central forecast for inflation two years hence and make people think more in terms of a range of probabilities.

This is sensible, if only because forecasting over such a long period does not lend itself to pinpoint accuracy, and the Bank has had to swallow enough criticism of its record without having to answer for percentage point differences in its predictions. Mr King has always been at pains to say that the Inflation

Report offers nothing more than a best guess.

The new section comes in response to a scathing attack on the Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee recently. The committee accused the Bank of a perennial bias towards pessimism on inflation and demanded that it publish its track record.

In both 1993 and 1994, the Bank has had to concede undue pessimism but still argues that it was less wrong than most outside forecasters and has been more accurate in 1995. The record suggests that interest rates could have been cut earlier and further in the period after sterling came out of the exchange-rate mechanism, that they need not have been raised subsequently to the extent that they were and that they should have been cut before December.

But this debate is only about a half point here or there, a month early or late. It is nit-picking compared with the astonishing misjudgment of the sterling futures markets over the same period. In November 1994, the futures markets were expecting

interest rates of around 9 per cent in December 1995. Against such pessimism, the Bank looks positively Panglossian.

De maximis non curat lex

HAVING reached a low point where big ticket lawsuits were deterring potential partners from joining Big Six accountancy firms must have thought they were moving swiftly to the sunny uplands.

First, they arranged with Jersey to introduce US-style limited liability partnerships. The house in Guildford would be safe, if not the firm. Then America unexpectedly enacted a proportionate liability law, saving auditors who had only failed to spot a fraud early from being responsible for all the money lost. Surely Britain would think like that.

Byte in the bonus

THEY do things differently in America, clearly. Here, a chief executive is hired on the understanding that, if a corporate raider arrives alongside, he does his level best to repel boarders or at least make capture as expensive as possible. But the bonuses agreed for Gilbert Amelio, the new head at Apple Computer, seem structured to accelerate a takeover. Good news for Apple's shareholders – but Sir Rocco Forte must be wondering where he went wrong.

Lloyds Abbey Life shares leap on 31% profits rise

BY MARIANNE CURPHIE AND PATRICIA TEHAN

SHARES in Lloyds Abbey Life (LAL), the life insurance group that is 60 per cent owned by Lloyds Bank, jumped 18p, to 506p, yesterday after the group reported better-than-expected pre-tax profits.

For the 12 months to December 31, pre-tax profit advanced 31 per cent, to £42.5 million, while the group agreed to raise the dividend by 10 per cent, to 21.5p.

Analysts, who had forecast a much smaller rise in profits due to a general slump in the pensions business, said that much of the growth had come from existing life policies that were maturing. In addition, the cost of restraining the group's sales force had hit profits disproportionately hard in 1994, making the 1995 results look better.

The results included a £3 million loss from the sale of Trans Leben, LAL's loss-making German life assurance subsidiary, at the end of last year.

Pre-tax profits in Black Horse Financial Services, which sells life assurance and

pensions through Lloyds Bank branches, rose to £12.1 million, against £7.5 million last time, while those for Abbey Life were up by 17 per cent, to £14.9 million.

Detailed figures show that single premium products grew by 36 per cent in total for 1995. Laurel Powers-Presting, the group's finance director, said that guaranteed bonds had accounted for almost half of all single premium business in both companies during the 12-month reporting period.

But while shareholders may be happy, life and pensions policyholders have seen only average returns. Both the Abbey Life Managed fund and the Black Horse funds turned in an average performance last year, while Abbey Life products did slightly better than average over five years, according to figures issued by Micropal, the statistics agency.

Losses at Black Horse Agencies (BHA), the estate agency division,深ened to £9.5 million (£3.7 million), with fee income falling 13 per cent.

Stephen Maran, the group's chief executive, said that middle-market housing in the south of England, which was BHA's "bread-and-butter", had been particularly badly affected. He said there were no plans to sell BHA, although the City believes that LAL would be keen to dispose of it at the right price.

Sir Simon Horobin, chairman, refused to comment on how current discussions between Lloyds Bank and the TSB, which merged in December to form Lloyds TSB Group, would affect LAL.

He said that the introduction last year of disclosure rules, which required sales forces to give details of expenses and commission on life products, had not deterred customers from making purchases. However, he said that consumers "remained reluctant to make long-term financial commitments".

The company has already set aside £80 million to compensate customers who may have been misled personal pensions.

Lloyd's Bowmaker, the finance house, made £74.5 million pre-tax profit, a 2 per cent increase on 1994, while Lloyds Bank Insurance Services increased to £92.4 million (£70.8 million).

Meanwhile, LAL is considering the acquisition of a mutual life company.

Possible targets include Scottish Widows, Friends Provident, Clerical Medical and Scottish Amicable. However, the insurer was surprised not to have been included among those approached by Clerical Medical, which recently put itself up for sale.

Stephen Maran, chief executive of LALK, said that the acquisition of a large mutual would demonstrate its wish to be seen as a serious player in the independent financial adviser market. He added: "If we were to tie our distribution power to a wider selection of products, including with profits, and apply our ability to manage costs we could have something going."

But he added that any acquisition would have to be at the right price and the right fit for Lloyds Abbey Life. He said he was "worried that the prices for these firms will get out of hand."

Pennington, page 25

Decision day on bid by Farnell

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE fate of Farnell's bold £1.8 billion bid for Premier, the American electronic distribution company, will be decided this morning at the company's extraordinary meeting at its headquarters in Wetherby, West Yorkshire.

It will be a close-fought battle, since Standard Life, the fund management group, declared its opposition to the bid last week.

Standard Life, which owns 2 per cent of the shares, expressed its concern about the price, which represents a 40 per cent takeover premium, and Farnell's debt-funding plans to pay for the takeover.

Legal and General, which holds 1.5 per cent, has also said publicly that it will vote against the deal.

To pass the meeting, Farnell must secure the backing of 75 per cent of shareholders. It has secured the support of major fundholders such as Mercury Asset Management, Scottish

Widows and Fleming Fund Management, representing a total of 25.1 per cent of shares. Farnell said at the weekend that the "vast majority" of proxy votes it had received were in support of the deal. However, it has insufficient votes to guarantee success.

The future of the deal is now likely to hinge on the votes of two other large institutional shareholders, Norwich Union and Prudential, which control a further 9.5 per cent of Farnell between them and are believed to have reservations about the takeover. Both have refused to comment.

Farnell has defended the deal, which would catapult it into the FT-SE 100, in terms of the quality of Premier's business and geographical fit. The takeover would result in the Mandel family, Premier's present owners, taking a 25 per cent stake in Farnell. The shares crept up 2p to 637p yesterday.

Pennington, page 25

ROBERT HELLER

The management classic now fully revised and updated for the end of the century

Line rental charges rule ended for BT

BY ERIC REGLEY

OFTEL, the telecommunications regulator, yesterday abolished the regulation that prevents BT from raising its line rental charges by more than 2 percentage points above the inflation rate. The company, however, said there would be no immediate changes to the prices and that dramatic rises would be unlikely because its overall price cap remains in place.

Oftel said the cap on line rentals was archaic now that BT faces substantial competition from cable telephone companies. BT welcomed the move, noting that it was a step towards its goal of obtaining total price freedom and plans to launch a series of residential phone packages similar to the ones offered by mobile phone companies, later this year.

They would replace the standard line rental charge of £24.79 per quarter and would vary in price depend-

ing on customers' phone use patterns. Those who use the phone a lot, for example, might opt for a high line rental fee in exchange for lower call charges.

So-called access deficit charges are disappearing with the line rental constraint. The charge was collected from Mercury Communications by BT to help to maintain its vast phone infrastructure. Mercury said elimination will save it about £40 million a year.

In a separate development, Mercury condemned BT for what it sees as a new effort to restrict competition. BT has asked Oftel to allow it to impose a £1 per month fee, called a "charge for indirect access," for customers who choose to bypass BT's network. Customers who switch on to the Mercury network by pressing the blue buttons on their Mercury phones would qualify for the charge.

Operating profits were ahead by 17 per cent at £326 million on an increased turnover of £3.1 billion, up 19 per cent, while earnings per share were flat at 3.9p. Lord Hanson, chairman, said: "This very satisfactory result is in line with expectations. We are ahead of last year after adjusting for USI contributions. Shareholders also continue to benefit from the increase in value of their USI holding."

Eastern Group registered profits of £75 million. Hanson said it was expected to enhance full-year earnings to a greater degree than previously anticipated. Overall, the energy division increased profits by 140 per cent to £118 million, in spite of a worse than expected performance from Peabody, the coal company.

SCM Chemicals, benefiting from improved margins, lifted profits. But Quantum could not match last year's record performance: profits fell by almost a third to £58 million.

Profits for the chemicals division, as a whole, fell 14 per

Hanson hurt by higher interest rate charges

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

HANSON, the industrial conglomerate, yesterday revealed reduced first-quarter profits of £262 million, after it was hit by a 60 per cent jump in interest rate charges to £85 million.

The 3.5 per cent decline also reflects the end of contributions from the demerged USI businesses, did little to reassure the City, in spite of a better than expected performance from Eastern Group, the newly acquired electricity company. Shares, already depressed by concern over the implications of the demerger plans, fell back a further 34p to 180p.

Hanson said work was continuing on the demerger, which will divide the group into four quoted companies in the coming year, but it would be some time before more details were available. The disposals of Surburban Propane and Cavenham remain on track.

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Profits for the chemicals division, as a whole, fell 14 per

cent to £91 million on reduced turnover of £429 million.

There was also continued weakness in the UK building material sector, although Hanson said it was confident that these businesses would improve. Cornerstone and Grove increased profits, while ARC preserved its profits in spite of difficult conditions. But Hanson Brick and Hanson Electrical suffered from a fall in UK housing starts. Overall, the building division maintained profits at £36 million on an increased turnover of £553 million, up 8 per cent.

Imperial Tobacco also registered a fall in profits, although an improved contribution from Seven Seas, the vitamin company, ensured that the consumer division only suffered a small drop in total profits to £8 million.

A quarterly dividend of 3p will be paid on April 9.

Tempus, page 26

I advise all those

interested in their

future to read *Riding*

The Business Cycle

LORD REES-MOGG

Riding
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Cycle
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How Six Climatic and Economic Cycles Are Changing Our Lives

William Houston



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The Breakneck Race to Create Windows NT and the Next Generation at Microsoft

G. Pascal Zachary

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Takeover rumours push BET shares to new high

BET, the cleaning, security and building services group, went on bid alert last night amid claims that Clive Thompson's fast-growing Rentokil was poised to strike.

In heavy trading that saw more than 28 million shares, or 3 per cent of the company change hands, the price of BET climbed 10p to a new high of 150p. Speculators are talking of a bid of around 180p a share, valuing BET at £1.7 billion. "It's clearly a bit more than your run-of-the-mill type of ramp in the shares," said one leading trader.

Rentokil was non-committal. Clive Thompson, chief executive, and the man who has turned Rentokil into a company capitalised at more than £3.5 billion, with double-digit earnings growth, said: "It is not our practice to comment on market rumours."

Rentokil has made more than 200 acquisitions in recent years, mostly agreed, and financed by cash. But the company does have experience of making aggressive bids, having snapped-up Securguard Group for about £80 million several years ago. Rentokil finished 4½p lower at 362½p.

The rest of the equity market failed to break out of its narrow trading range, despite mounting pressure on the Chancellor for a cut in bank base rates. The latest Bank of England inflation report indicated that inflation was set to fall below 2.5 per cent within two years, reviving hopes that there is scope for a further softening of rates.

However, with Wall Street lower in early trading, investors remained cautious ahead of today's Scott report into arms for Iraq and the Retail Price Index. The FT-SE 100 index finished 2.6 down at 3,745.0, with total turnover reaching 739 million shares.

David S Smith stood out with a rise of 8p to 297p, supported by positive recommendations from BEW and Merrill Lynch. Smith New Court Pearson fell up to 679p in spite of denying it was joining a consortium to bid for Aaron Spelling's film production company in the US.

News of a detergents price war sent Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch food and household products group, surging 17p to 1,127.3. The news also hit McBride, down 5p at a low of 134p. It followed a move by Procter & Gamble to take on



Driving off: Clubhaus's Robert Bourne and Baron von Spoden

own-label competitors. Newcomer McBride, which specialises in own-label goods, saw its share price hit last month after warning that rising costs and pressure on margins could hit profits.

Unilever also announced plans to acquire Helene Curtis, the US personal care group, for \$770 million. Unilever has spent almost £1

million shares. But fresh pressure on margins left Argyll, the Safeway supermarket chain, 6p down at 310p.

News of a bid approach sent Oriel, the insurance broker, soaring 39p to 189p. Talk in the marketplace centred on Aon, the US insurance company. A statement from Oriel said: "Tentative approaches have been received from a number of parties but the board has not received a formal offer proposal..." Speculators have been talking of a possible bid of up to 250p a share, valuing the entire company at £725 million.

A profits warning left Fenchurch Insurance 10p off at 125p. Brokers had been looking for a final outcome of around 59 million compared with £8.4 million last time.

Rupert Hambro, chairman, blamed poor market conditions and longer-than-expected lead times in the projects division. There was also a question mark over income from its international division.

Clubhouse teed-off its stock market debut with a small premium. The group, which owns and operates golf courses in Europe, opened at 82½p compared with the original open offer price of 72½p. The shares ended the day at 8p, a premium of 4p, with almost eight million shares changing hands. The premium was achieved despite only 30 per cent of the 66.6 million shares being taken-up. Assets are calculated at a minimum 9p a share and the group hopes to take advantage of the falling price for golf courses.

□ GILT-EDGED: Prices opened lower reflecting weaker German bonds and nervousness ahead of the Bank of England inflation report. Attempts at a rally after the report was published proved short-lived with prices closing near their low for the day.

In the futures pit the March series of the long gilt finished £1032 down at £1047½ in heavy turnover that saw 92,200 contracts completed.

Among conventional issues, benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2013 retreated £212 to £1004½, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £9½ off at £1041½.

□ NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street were mixed in late-morning trading as an attempt at a rally by industrials faltered. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 28.18 points, at 5570.52.

A buy recommendation from Cazenove, the broker, lifted Lasmco 7p to 171p. Williams de Brée, the broker, also says Lasmco is a chart buy with the relative strength line highlighting the underperformance of the shares. It says the next stop for the Lasmco price is 190p, after which it could double in value.

billion on acquisitions this year to date.

First-quarter figures from Hanson were at the top end of expectations but still showed a downturn of £10 million to £262 million. The figures included a first-time contribution of £75 million from Eastern, but were distorted by last year's demerger of USI.

Interest charges were also up from £53 million to £85 million.

Reuters continued to respond positively to profit news, and the proposals to pay back surplus cash to shareholders, with a rise of 17p to 692p on turnover of almost 10

FT all-share index (rebased)

Source: Datastream

Share price

220p
210
200
190
180
170
160
150
140

Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb

is now anxious to see what the newly merged Lloyds TSB intends to do with 60 per cent stake in Lloyds Abbey Life. It can sell it, buy out the minority shareholders or simply leave things as they are.

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FT all-share index (rebased)

Source: Datastream

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Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb

Closing Prices Page 23

FT-SE 100

FT-SE 250

Three Month Sterling

Three Month Eurosterling

Long Gilt

Japanese Govt Bond

German Govt Bond

Three Month ECU

Euro Swiss Franc

Italian Govt Bond

Gold/Crude Oil

Crude Oil

Gold

Euro Gold

Gold/Euro

<p

IoD sets out wider view of business

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

COMPANIES should take into account non-financial measures of performance in the running of their businesses, the Institute of Directors said yesterday.

The IoD's insistence that business is not just about relatively short-term financial performance will be seen as a welcome shift by business leaders and others who argue for a more inclusive approach embracing a wider range of stakeholders — customers, suppliers, employees and the community — as well as shareholders.

Tim Melville-Ross, director-general of the IoD, said last night that the debate about whether a company should be run in the interests of its shareholders or its stakeholders is essentially false. "We should be devoting our efforts to making both work better in a complementary way, rather than trying to choose falsely between them."

While this is a long way from an endorsement of the shareholder idea promoted prominently by Tony Blair, the Labour leader, the IoD accepted that it was also a long way from a rejection of it.

Speaking at Strathclyde University, Mr Melville-Ross said: "We need to develop the view that business is not just about relatively short-term financial performance but rather long-term shareholder gain, which requires other measures of performance than the purely financial to be taken into account."

Clear responsibilities on boards to maximise long-term returns to their shareholders would benefit all the constituencies of a company, as well as the wider community, he said, while current problems of corporate governance could be addressed by companies changing their behaviour.

Encouraging them to be fair to their customers and focus less on profit maximisation would lead to better corporate behaviour, as well as improved financial performance.



PolyGram line-up: clockwise from top, U2 singer Joan Osborne, and Sean Penn and Susan Sarandon in *Dead Man Walking*, directed by Tim Robbins

PolyGram would look at any sale of MGM/UA film studio

By ERIC REGULY

POLYGRAM, the Anglo-Dutch music and entertainment group, said yesterday that it might bid for MGM/UA, the Hollywood film studio that made *The Wizard of Oz* and *Gone with the Wind*, if the French Government puts it on the auction block this year.

Alain Levy, PolyGram's chief executive, said that an

acquisition was not critical to the success of its relatively new but struggling film business, but noted that any opportunity to make a splash in the industry would be examined.

He said: "If MGM comes for sale, we certainly will look at it. It's a very nice asset, in terms of film assets and in terms of catalogue."

Credit Lyonnais, the French bank, acquired MGM/UA in 1992 after Giancarlo Piretti, an Italian financier, defaulted on the loans he took out to buy it. The studio and other Credit Lyonnais assets were transferred recently to a separate company as part of French efforts to rescue the bank.

Under US banking law,

MGM/UA must be sold by May 1997 and it is expected to be put on the market later this year. With recent hits such as *GoldenEye*, the new James Bond film, *Get Shorty* and *Leaving Las Vegas*, the studio's worst days are thought to be behind it. The French government has hired Lazard Frères, the investment banker,

as financial adviser to the MGM/UA sale.

PolyGram, as expected, revealed essentially flat earnings in the year to December 31. The results reflected the delayed release of several pop albums, the lack of any blockbuster movie hits, and the strong appreciation of the Dutch guilder, the company's reporting currency. Income from operations edged up 1.4 per cent to £1.05 billion guilders (£496 million), an increase of 4.9 per cent. Sales in 1995 increased 14.1 per cent to £1.23 trillion. Canon attributed the rise to strong sales of personal computer peripherals and of steppers, which are used to make semiconductors. Sales of PC peripherals, including bubble jet printers and laser beam printers, rose 20.7 per cent. Canon expects demand for printers and steppers will stay strong throughout 1996.

Thorn wins award

THORN EMI has won the Environmental Reporting Awards sponsored by the Association of Certified Accountants for the second consecutive year. The runner-up was National Power. The judges said entries indicated a higher level of commitment to real target setting on environmental performance and to reporting in quantitative terms. Thorn was praised for the extent of published environmental data. The ACCA announced that, from next year, the awards would be widened to include social and ethical reporting.

Expansion for Emmap

EMMAP, the publishing group, has acquired the construction information business of Thomson Corp for £17.7 million. The purchase includes Glenigan, which supplies planning and project leads to the construction industry; Applied Property Research, a seller of on-line research facilities to the commercial property sector; and BMMR, a publisher of costing and estimating information to the building and retail markets. Emmap also has an option to purchase Newmarket, Glenigan's Dublin subsidiary.

Canon earns record

CANON, the Japanese manufacturer of printers and photographic equipment, earned record profits of £80.24 million (£496 million), an increase of 48.9 per cent. Sales in 1995 increased 14.1 per cent to £1.23 trillion. Canon attributed the rise to strong sales of personal computer peripherals and of steppers, which are used to make semiconductors. Sales of PC peripherals, including bubble jet printers and laser beam printers, rose 20.7 per cent. Canon expects demand for printers and steppers will stay strong throughout 1996.

CPL buys for £5m

CPL Aromas, the aromatic flavours, fragrances and ingredients company, is acquiring Du Crocq Aromatics International for a maximum of £5.6 million. Du Crocq is a producer and distributor of fragrances, flavours and aromatic ingredients based in The Netherlands. The acquisition expands CPL's operations in Japan, Italy, Eastern Europe and North Africa. The acquisition will be funded through a placing and open offer of new shares at 35p each, raising £6.9 million. Existing shares rose 23p to 393p.

Fenchurch warning

SHARES of Fenchurch, the insurance broker, dropped 19p to 125p after it said that trading conditions remained tough and current trends led it to believe that profits in this year would not meet earlier expectations. Rupert Hambro, the chairman of Fenchurch, told shareholders at the annual meeting that the lead time on some international projects might be longer than expected. He added that the departure of a small group from the international division also meant certain income from that area was in doubt.

China pledge on Hong Kong

By DAVID WATTS

CHINA will not take a penny in tax out of Hong Kong nor send a single civil servant after 1997, China's trade minister promised yesterday.

Madame Wu Yi, Minister for Foreign Trade and Economic Co-operation, promised that Peking would strictly adhere to its policy of "Hong Kong people running Hong Kong" and the interests of Britain and other investing nations would be safeguarded.

But she admonished British businessmen for being too gentlemanly in going

after business opportunities in China — "you must be more aggressive and not let slip the opportunities," she told a dinner gathering of the China-Britain Trade Group.

In spite of Britain's investment of \$1.86 billion in 1,300 projects in China, this was not in line with the country's status as a world-wide economic power and London was lagging behind the United States and Japan.

But two-way Britain-China trade, which was worth \$4.76 billion last year,

was 14 per cent up over the previous year. Congratulatory faxes from Hong Kong businessmen poured in after she wrote an article published in 14 Hong Kong newspapers headlined *The future of Hong Kong will be even more beautiful*. She noted that the National People's Congress will meet on March 5 to set national economic goals up to the year 2000. She predicted that by that year China would be doing trade of \$400 billion a year, with the sum equally divided between imports and exports.

All over bar the need to get back to basics

EVEN at the end the facts could not be admitted openly and honestly. A joint press release was issued last Monday from the English ICA and Cima, the management accounting body. "Accountancy bodies publish merger survey results" was its headline. The real story only emerged in the third paragraph. The merger was being abandoned.

This is sad but was always inevitable. The English ICA, over the past decade, has tried to take over just about everyone in sight. The only attempt its members voted for was a merger with the Scots. And then the Scots refused.

The reasons are always the same. The younger end of the membership refuses to countenance sharing the qualification with other bodies. It was precisely the same back in the early 1970s when a grand design to put all six bodies together was scuppered by the same English refusal, as they would see it, to let the others in. Twenty-five years on, the market research produces the same depressing answers. Under the principles as seen as "hardest to accept" came 17 per cent who found a stumbling block in the name of the new institute — the Institute of Chartered Accountants, hardly radical.

There were 21 per cent against the new titles and designatory letters, 23 per cent against the change in education and training and 16 per cent against the new organisational structure.

The key, as ever, was in the age profile. Under the age of 35 there were 20 per cent in favour and 79 per cent against the idea of merger. Above the age of 50 you had 52 per cent in favour and 46 per cent against. On the surface, the most extraordinary figures were found in the change of view since the last survey. Last year, when English ICA members were surveyed on the broad idea of merger, 67 per cent were in favour. That was a smidgen above the 66 and two-thirds majority that would have been needed to approve the idea. Once the first principles had been published and a new survey carried out last December, the figure had dropped to 36 per cent.

The institute needs to build its technical expertise. It needs to do what its members want it to do. They want their institute to be un-exciting but sound. They want it to enhance and expand the reputation and expertise of accounting. That is also what the general public wants and requires.



ROBERT BRUCE

Think of the fund manager

Daniel Broby puts the case for giving a higher profile to risk in a company's annual report



Headline earnings can miss the full story, says Daniel Broby

Risk, in a single word, sums up a fund manager's daily preoccupation. The primary ingredients in the investment decision-making process, analysis and management, are geared to reducing the standard deviation of returns. Interpretation of financial reports is central to this.

Fund managers cannot always see beyond accounting manipulation, so it is particularly interesting to note that most of the accountants and academics who also contributed to *Financial Reporting 1995-96*, a survey of UK reporting practice by the Institute of Chartered Accountants, joined me in calling for company risk to have a higher profile in company reports.

Many of the claimed failings in financial reporting, apart from the continuing intangible and depreciation debates, can be attributed to a misconception by the company of the decision-making process of the fund manager.

Traditional accounting covers assets and liabilities, as well as revenue and expenditure. Fund managers base their decisions on risk and reward. Accounting does not

yet cover this third dimension adequately.

Great progress has been made on many aspects of risk disclosure and corporate governance. Clearly, not every aspect of the things fund managers would like to see in accounts can be brought into existence by regulation.

The "expectation gap" should be closed by a clear communication of the message, an advantage being the greater the disclosure of financial information, the easier it becomes to raise capital on the primary debt and equity markets.

Although myopic, one of the main preoccupations of a fund manager is earnings per share. Accounting ratios and changes in cash flows are often a secondary consideration.

One must ask if this focus is flawed, especially for the purposes of international comparison. The organic growth of a company, for example, may be disguised by adjustments after takeovers.

Defining a single earnings figure for all purposes is bound to fail. The Institute of Investment Management and Research recognises this and suggests that fund managers

have limited financial resources. If the cash and liquid assets of a company are not well managed, that company could fail. The status of the treasury function provides interesting insights into the business. More detail is required on the management of currency and

interest rate risk in company accounts. It should be clear whether the treasury is a cost or profit centre.

FRS 5, Reporting the Substance of Transaction, has gone some way to close off-balance sheet loopholes which were rife in UK financial reporting.

Redefining earnings and evaluating risk and reward limits a fund manager's time. To help, there are many presentation areas of company reports which could be improved. These include the reporting of the treasury function, the provision of historical information, particularly on share capital, and the contractual obligations of the company, especially in respect of directors' remuneration.

The ASB has eliminated

much of the unhelpful reporting practices in the past. It should now concentrate on making reporting practices more helpful. Once accounting discloses more on risk, fund managers can then concentrate on the reward side of the equation.

Daniel Broby, head of international research, Quilter Goodison Co, and council member of the Institute of Investment Management and Research, is a contributor to Financial Reporting 1995-96, published by Accountancy Books, 663, PO Box 620, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 2HL; telephone: 01908 24000.

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Equities trade in narrow limits

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

FILM 1

A throw of the dice unleashes the thrills of the jungle for Robin Williams and pals in *Jumanji*.

FILM 2

Ulysses' Gaze proves to be a Greek turn of pretty pictures and impenetrable layers of allegory.

FILM 3

Shakespeare is pumped up for the modern age in Oliver Parker's watchable romp through *Othello*.

FILM 4

Only for those with a sweet tooth: *Bed of Roses* carries the whimsical love story to new depths.

CINEMA: The special effects in *Jumanji* are very impressive, says Geoff Brown, but could lead to tears after bedtime

Urban jungle not for the tots

Fifteen years ago the American writer and illustrator Chris van Allsburg created the children's book *Jumanji*. He wrote 14 pages of text; he drew 14 full-page black-and-white drawings depicting the tumult unleashed when unsuspecting children play a dangerous board game. Each throw of the dice brings either a lip-smacking lion, or 12 cowering monkeys, a monsoon and other jungle torments bounding through the house. There is no escape: the game must be played until the end.

The film *Jumanji* is another master. Forget for a moment Robin Williams and the other actors, the 20 stuntmen, the director Joe Johnston and his chief technical support. Consider instead the computer army, the wizards of Industrial Light and Magic who prepared the digital effects and spent eight months making the hair on the lion's mane ripple correctly. Although the film, by and large, is effective, you do feel the weight of the extraordinary effort required to turn 14 drawings into a Hollywood spectacular.

The storyline is also much elaborated. After a brief prologue in 1869 we switch a century further on, when the browbeaten son of a shoe factory boss finds the game and gets sucked into the board. We shift again in 1995. Recession has hit; the factory is closed, the boss's house sold. New children uncover the game. Monkeys materialise, then a lion, and a shaggy Robin Williams – the lost boy grown up, although his emotions are still in short-supply.

Now the computer army really gets to work. Each throw of the dice brings a new

Jumanji
Odeon Leicester Square
PG, 104 mins
Exhilarating special effects romp

Ulysses' Gaze
Lumière PG, 177 mins
Portentous epic from Theo Angelopoulos

Othello
Odeon Haymarket
12, 124 mins
Shakespeare for the multiplexes

Bed of Roses
Piazza PG, 88 mins
Wistful, whimsical romance

The Pebble and the Penguin
Warner Action
U, 74 mins
Bland animated feature

jungle eruption: the house, the streets and a supermarket become swamped by elephants, rhinos, monstrous plants and a big-game hunter with a nasty temper. Some visitors won't be better than others. The flood of water rushing down the staircase is thrilling, but the malicious monkeys prove a pest, and the humor becomes a bore.

The film also frightens more than it might. Where Van Allsburg's cryptic pictures let the terrors expand in our minds, Hollywood thrusts them loudly before us, with possible danger to younger children.

Still, there is something genuinely touching about Williams' man-child lost in a board game for 26 years; and

Bonnie Hunt and youngsters Bradley Pierce and Kristen Dunst are good company, never mugging at the camera to make their presence felt. Lots and overkill acknowledged, *Jumanji* remains an exhilarating experience.

A sailing boat coloured a delicate blue from mast-head to prow edges its way into a grey harbour. A barge containing a giant dismembered statue of Lenin chugs through the countryside. In the streets of Ptolemais, Greece, crowds bearing torches face crowds bearing umbrellas; elsewhere, fog and snow work their alchemy on the landscape. Time and again in *Ulysses' Gaze*, Theo Angelopoulos rehearses his credentials as one of the world's most accomplished visual poets.

However, when the film lasts nearly three hours the striking images still leave plenty of spare minutes for mundane matters. Like Harvey Keitel. The ubiquitous actor plays a Greek filmmaker long in America who returns home to begin a search for surviving fragments of the first film shot by the Manakis brothers, pioneers of Balkan cinema.

The character has no name other than the initial A, and Keitel certainly treats the chaos as more symbol than flesh and blood. Wrapped in a black coat, A criss-crosses Angelopoulos's images, hoping to recapture the purity of cinema's "first gaze", all the while tangling with duplicate versions of the eternal woman, played by Romania's Mara Morgenstern.

"I don't understand," he bleats with furrowed brow, a pardonable reaction given the director's fondness for cre-



There goes the neighbourhood: with just a throw of the dice in a magical board game, a menagerie of wild animals is let loose to wreak havoc, spread alarm and generally make a mess out of everyone's day in the fantasy spectacular *Jumanji*, with Robin Williams and a megabyte-cast

dining events in layers of allegory. *Ulysses' Gaze*, a grand but toothy film, tries to handle the present Bosnian conflict, the centenary of cinema, the Greek myth of *Ulysses'* voyages, and various matters autobiographical (A for Angelopoulos). The pictures, beautiful as they are, cannot stand the strain.

Pardon my language, but I have just seen a poster for *Othello* defaced with the words "Sell-out Negro". This is a harsh judgment, on Laurence Fishburne, although you can see how it could arise.

First he was plain Larry Fishburne; he played heavies, or figures of conscience from the 'hoods. Then, when critical acclaim came his way, he stretched his first name. Now he's playing Shakespeare.

With his shaved head and smouldering sexuality Fishburne looks magnificent; and for the director, the British actor Oliver Parker, his American nationality is a positive advantage. "Shakespeare," Parker says, "has been too British for too long."

Desdemona, consequently, is French, although Irène Jacob's rendering proves unusually dull for the heroine of Kieslowski's *Double Life of Veronique*. And neither player handles the words with the finesse of Kenneth Branagh and the cast's other stalwarts of British theatre. Branagh often grates when he tries to be, endearing on screen but the smiles and delects of his lago make engrossing viewing.

Parker, for his part, pushes the story along, excising chunks of text, inserting flashes of Desdemona cooing, and getting the

best of his Italian locations. For a bravura visual response, Orson Welles' 1952 version outshines all others; but Parker's uneven cast and all makes a fair stab at turning the Bard into a decent night out at the multiplex.

"It was probably a clerical error of the floral world," Mary Stuart Masterson muses, faced with an anonymous bouquet in *Bed of Roses*. Unfortunately not the florist, Christian Slater, sent them himself as the first step in a gruesome courtship set in a New York free of graffiti, muggers and muggers.

Playwright Michael Goldenberg, the writer-director, seems aware of the clichés that dog young couples who fall in love, lose each other, and get back on track. But he falls into them regardless. The performances are pleasing within their small boundaries; the film, however, is redundant whimsy.

The Pebble and the Penguin is not much of a title for an animated feature, but at least it identifies the characters' species. When did you last see penguins with waists? Lovely Marina has one eyelash too. Hubie, her wooper, voiced by Martin Short, has the nose of a bear, while the physique of his rival (Tim Curry) suggests a Ninja Turtle. They wear clothes, of course: hats, scarves, capes. Well, it's cold in the Antarctic.

But why shoot down this little film from the trish empire of former Disney artist Don Bluth? It aims at no heights, and reaches none. The animation is adequate, the voice artists competent. It plumps for sap and delivers.

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STEVE GRANT, TIME OUT

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jealousy
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LAURENCE FISHERNE
IRENE JACOB
KENNETH BRANAGH

OTHELLO

CASLEBROOK ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS DAVID FLINT/BAMBOO FILM PRODUCTIONS LAURENCE FISHERNE, IRENE JACOB, KENNETH BRANAGH "OTHELLO" MINIATURE BY CHARLES MOLE EDITOR TONY LARSEN A.C.E. MUSIC DIRECTOR TIM HARVEY DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY DAVID LYNNSON ADAPTED FROM THE PLAY BY OLIVER PARKER DIRECTOR OF PICTURES JONATHAN OLSENG PICTURED BY LUC RUY AND DAVID BARBER DIRECTED BY OLIVER PARKER

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AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY

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Simon Ross, Daily Mirror

This dynamite rock'n'rollercoaster of a film will leave your brain dancing a blood-spattered lambada for weeks afterwards.

Stephen Elliott, 1995

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AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY FROM FEBRUARY 23

SNAP VERDICT

Every week on Moviewatch, young film fans discuss new releases. Today's panel comes from Manchester ...

JUMANJI

Patrick Jordan, 22: I've been waiting for this movie for a long time. It was buzzing. It makes *Jurassic Park* look like Legoland. I recommend it.

Judy Shackson, 18: I disagree. It's good, but it's still a kids' film. Special effects are what make it. Without them it would be standard-formula.

Steve Smith, 20: You really were on the edge of your seat waiting to see what happened next. It surprised and scared you. I'm not a big Robin Williams fan but I could watch him in this.

Helen Wimpenny, 20: The effects were breathtaking, especially the stampede. But it's not a film for me. There are some adult jokes but it's really a children's film.

Judy: It was awful; the worst film I've ever seen. You don't know what's going on. You sit there bored for three hours.

Steve: It was one of the most boring films I've seen in my life. Nothing happens. Dire.

Helen: Beautiful to look at; gorgeous scenery. But completely confused; you didn't know what it was about.

Patrick: It went over my head.

• In association with Chapter One's Moviewatch, shown tonight at 6.30pm on Channel 4



EDUCATION

Is the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts teaching showbiz with proper academic rigour?



YOUNG ARTS

Welsh primary schools make efforts to rekindle the traditional love of singing



OPERA

Nina Terentieva's 'cast-iron' Amneris is a redeeming feature of a rough *Aida* at Covent Garden



MUSIC

A brilliant technique, but does Nikolai Demidenko miss the heart of romantic music?

OPERA

House of louds

WHEN Nicholas Payne stepped out before the start of *Aida* to thank us all for coming to the theatre instead of staying at home to watch *The House* and to apologise for the non-appearance of Julia Varady because of an attack of bronchitis, a stentorian voice from the auditorium suggested that this was not the whole truth. Perish the thought — surely no more true than suggesting that "Varady" is Romanian for "cancer".

So Andrea Gruber made her house debut in the title role a week early. She is the latest in a line of robust young American sopranos tackling the heroic Italian repertoire. She sang her first operatic role only five years ago in Glasgow — the *Forza Leonora* — and hugely promising it was too. Her soprano is full and rich, with a good spinto edge. Good

Aida
Covent Garden

words, good breath control, and a good presence; she feels the role. But she seldom sings at less than forte, and you feel in the finale — surely the loudest in living memory — that she and her lover died less from slow suffocation than from perforated ear-drums.

Her Radames was another house debutante, the South African tenor Sidwell Hartman. There is plenty of *forza* at the top of his *tenore di forza* and when he hits a high note that he likes, he tends to hang on to it. A little more *vibrato* might help his tone sit more squarely on the centre of the notes, but any tenor who can sing Radames so confidently gets my vote.

Perhaps a conductor less lightweight than Jan Latham-Koenig might have persuaded both to sing with more variety and dynamic, but Gregory Yurish gave as musical and smoothly phrased an *Amnesio* as you could hope to hear. His was the performance of the evening, though I have a sneaking regard for Nina Terentieva's cast-iron Amneris, like Joan Crawford at her bestest.

This was a pretty rough and ready performance, while *Aida* can survive more or less anything, it was a close-run thing.

RODNEY MILNES

To the fingers via the heart

BARTÓK has never — hardly ever — had it so good. Even as Zoltán Kocsis's outstanding complete recorded edition of the piano works is ringing in the ears, fellow Hungarian András Schiff comes to the Wigmore Hall with a three-concert series of Bartók and Haydn.

The same verbal language that gave birth to Bartók's musical language is, of course, also part of Schiff's heritage, as it is with Kocsis. The system of free musical education with which both pianists grew up in Budapest enabled Schiff to absorb Bartók's musical language as naturally as his mother tongue.

As with Janacek, speech seems at times literally metamorphosed into musical tone. And with Schiff's robust yet always supple use of *parlando rubato* — a sort of "speaking" flexibility of phrasing and articulation — the fingers catch every vibration of the human heart.

When Schiff played ten pieces from the second book of *Für Kinder*, he became, for that moment, the child — head on one side, listening intently to the rocking of his own left hand in the Peacock song and, most magical of all, straining to catch the distant approach and departure of the Swineherd. Then came the Dance Suite of 1923 transcribed from the orchestra, some in a teasing kaleidoscope of voices and dialects.

From a dry, raw-throated stamping, touched by strange high notes, to a penitent dance, there was never a moment of less than richly imagined, full and reverberant sound.

Although shaped, to somewhat different ends, the similarly thrilling drama of shifting light, movement and character which Schiff created here, and in the 15 Hungarian Peasant Songs, animated his Haydn. He played three Sonatas: No 33 in C minor, an urgent and passionately explosive, fearlessly expressive, with *Sturm und Drang*; No 32 in G minor, with a marvellously free-wheeling and exploratory right hand; and No 60 in C, delighting in the sharp frost of staccato, the bright flash of a spread chord, the sudden hush of unpredictability in development.

The Barbican was almost as full as the world of the Wigmore Hall for Nikolai Demidenko's Chopin and Schumann recital on Sunday afternoon. It is 11 years since his British debut, and his lack of a more central place in the pantheon of exceptional young pianists may be due to a brilliance of highly drilled technique which enables him to do almost anything while identifying closely with little.

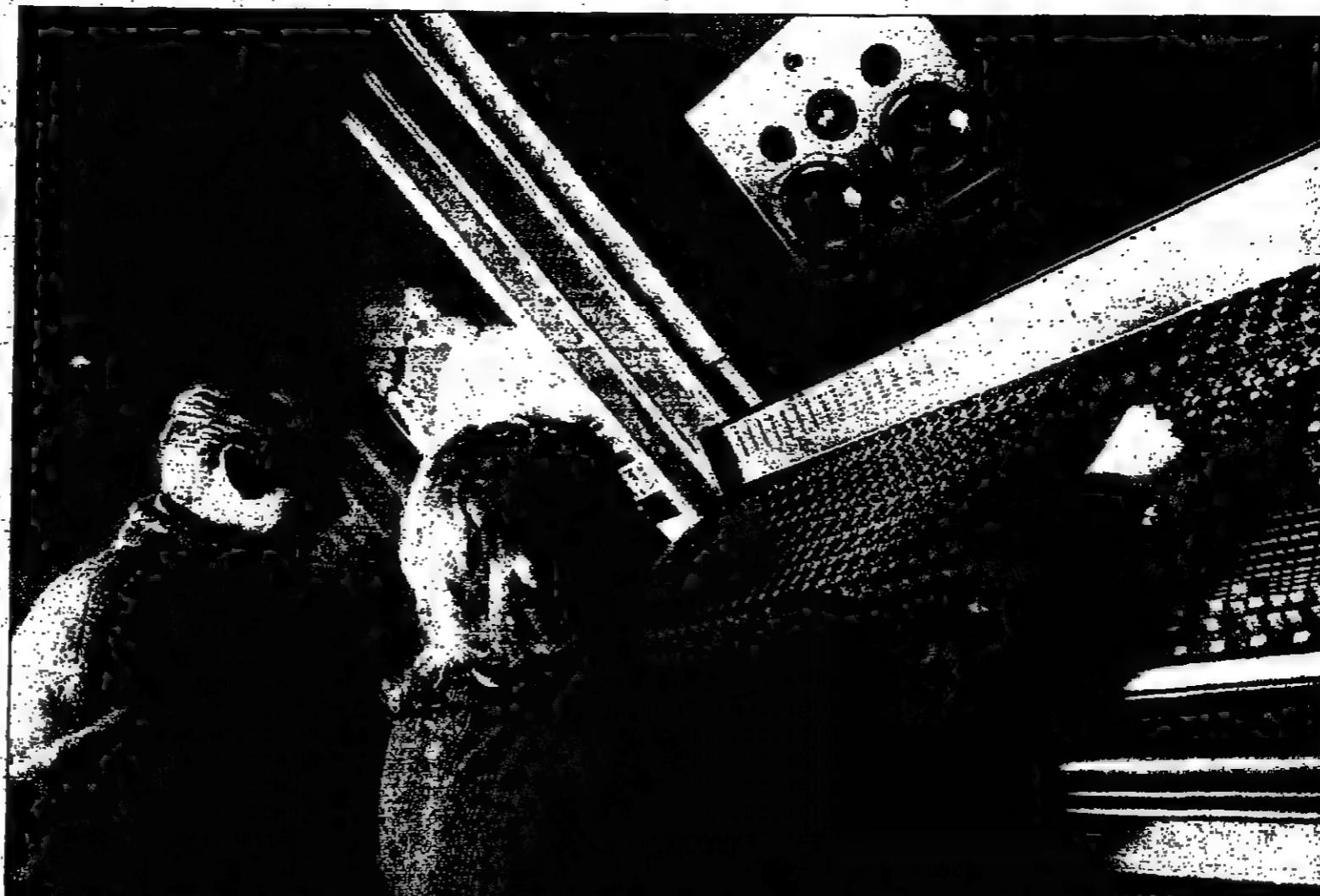
There was not, if truth be told, a world of difference in either sound quality or emotional inflection between his Chopin and his Schumann Etudes Symphoniques. Or even within his Chopin, from an albeit masterly elucidation of the often less than convincing First Sonata to the pair of Nocturnes and the Andante Spianato and Grand Polonaise.

There were pianistic wonders aplenty: the lean, lumen beauty of the Nocturne No 7, the string of transparent beads which were the notes of the Andante Spianato. But the human response behind the fingers remained elusive.

HILARY FINCH

Andy Lavender on Liverpool's new 'Fame School', where showbiz dreams get an academic veneer

A degree in living for ever?



In the mix: music students at the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts get to grips with some of the school's state-of-the-art recording facilities

graphs by Linda McCartney

Another striking feature is all the talk about "academic rigour". Why should LIPA bother with such a thing? The answer comes down to prestige and, of course, money. The burgeoning arts-culture sector is highly competitive, and students are attracted to the idea of attaining a BA. What is more, if an institution offers a degree programme, students are able to receive mandatory grants from their local authorities.

LIPA's degree programmes are validated by Liverpool's John Moores University. What does their academic content amount to? One central component is "contextual studies", a three-year course which takes in such things as "performing arts in the 20th century" (a historical and aesthetic survey) and "cultural

repolitik" (the pragmatics of the entertainment business). Only time will tell how rigorous these courses are.

If you are used to more traditional ideas of education, however, your jaw will drop when you walk into the "resource centre" (library, to the less avant-garde) and see the periodicals scattered on the floor. It will gap when you see the merest scattering of books on only four shelving units. It will hit the floor when you hear the students talking apprehensively of their tough assignment at the end of the first year: a 2,000 word essay.

Of course, students of contemporary culture must know what is in this month's *GQ*, but the suspicion remains that LIPA takes the industries it serves at face value, rather than treating them with ana-

lytic scrutiny. On the other hand, where else in the country can you take a degree in a brand new subject such as community arts, enterprise management or performance design? Unfortunately, I was unable to learn anything about these exciting new areas on the day of my visit. The afternoon included classes in keyboard composition and dance, while a number of students were diligently tapping away in isolation in the music studios or at the computers in the resource centre.

Ken O'Donoghue, head of learning resources (chief librarian, in an older tongue), talks about "moving away from a traditional learning centre" and towards "an accessing system for multimedia material. The main remit is providing access to the Internet."

LIPA is modern in other ways, too. "We formed a strategic alliance with Cable North West," O'Donoghue remarks, "so that we can let students access their work here from their own rooms." (If they have their own computers, that is.)

LIPA has formed a number of other alliances with businesses, none more strategic than that with Grundig, whose name appears everywhere LIPA's does. Indeed, the institute would never have seen the light of day had it not been for the input of various businesses and corporations, and the whole enterprise is a model of the mixed private and public-sector financing so prevalent in recent years.

The sponsors' names are in evidence throughout. Moreover, LIPA takes many of its overseas students from coun-

tries whose companies provide sponsorship. Can an educational establishment have too beady an eye for business? You might argue, after all, that LIPA teaches its students how to hone their cynicism as well as their creativity. "I wouldn't say cynicism," Featherstone-Witty counters, "as much as being streetwise."

The thing that all governments accept is that growth will come from the small and medium-sized enterprises," he says. "We have a programme here which will allow that to happen, and we expect students to have enough skill and indeed confidence when they leave to start up their own touring companies, their own record labels, their own bands. As a country, and as a culture, we all need to go out there and start something very exciting."

Chorus of approval from the valleys

Welsh children are making two great discoveries — singing, and the Welsh language. Hilary Finch reports



Pupils of Ysgol Coed y Gof, Cardiff, in full voice

which both are now compulsory, yet neither is nourished any longer by the chapel and community life.

Welsh language teaching is at least being supported by a strong body of material published by the Welsh Office. But there is no comparable resource bank for music teaching. So the BBC National

Orchestra of Wales which, under Helena Braithwaite, its indefatigable education and community officer, is engaged in outreach projects throughout the country, has taken the initiative in trying to revitalise Welsh language and Welsh music from its central point of focus, Welsh song.

The idea behind *Cymru's*

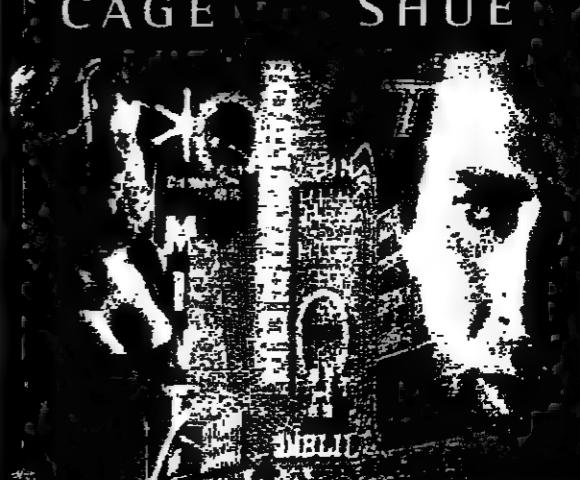
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Casualty of criticism or literary dinosaur? Ian McIntyre examines the early years of *The Good Soldier's* author



Ford: victim of his own accessibility

The name-change artist

This is the second substantial life of Ford Madox Ford to appear in six years. Max Saunders calls Alan Judd's biography, published in 1990, "novelistic". As Judd's earlier books were all novels, I tend to be descriptive rather than pejorative.

On looking again at Judd's stylishly written life, however, I see that in the most elegant way imaginable he actually got his retaliation in first: "To scholars who may regret the lack of more detailed references and footnotes, I can only say that I regret any inconvenience; since the lack is deliberate, to say more would be insincere. I wanted to write a book in which the spirit of its subject could be at ease."

That's an unusual ambition for a biographer, but it poses a subtle challenge to his successors. It will not be possible for some time to judge how well Saunders meets it. Reviewing the first part of a two-volume biography is a bit like writing a half-term report, particularly when it is the author's first essay in biography.

Saunders acknowledges that his subject's virtues are not academic — conceding that Ford became "a casualty of the academic guardianship of literature". His works, he writes, "are too readable to need the

FORD MADOX FORD
A Dual Life
Vol. I: The World Before the War
By Max Saunders
OUP, £35

industries of expatriates and annotators". As an academic he might seem to be digging a formidable water-jump both for himself and for his academic publisher.

The first ten words of his introduction suggest he is going to clear it with assurance. Is there a literary prize for the best opening sentence of the year? If so, Saunders should certainly make the shortlist. "Ford Madox Ford," he writes, "was born in June 1879, aged 45."

The promise, alas, is not sustained. Saunders plunges immediately into considering why Ford Hermann Hueffer, having already partly anglicised his name to Ford Madox Hueffer in 1915, felt obliged to indulge in a further flurry of deed-polling only four years later. The writing quickly becomes extremely dense. "Although Ford's change of name may register the wish, or the need, to escape," we read, "it also

recognises the impossibility of escaping, revisiting as it does its origin, and recreating the self in its own image." He later continues: "The memorable doubleness of name juxtaposes, as literary biography must, the 'true truth' of the personality enshrined in the œuvre with the archival truths about the artist's person to which that personality cannot be reduced."

This first volume carries the story up to Ford's departure for the war in 1916. It covers his conversion to Catholicism and his elopement with Elsie Martindale, his founding of *The English Review* and his relationship with Violet Hunt, his various nervous collapses and his involvement with the Vorticists and Imagists.

Saunders catalogues Ford's claims on our attention. He believes he wrote some of the best English prose of the century and that he was the century's greatest literary editor. "His energies of creativity and encouragement," he asserts, "changed the course of English and American literature."

These are large claims — almost as large as Rebecca West's insistence that his prewar novel *The Good Soldier* "set the pattern for perhaps half the novels which have been written since". (West was writing in 1927.) Saunders, whose own analysis of

the book extends to 59 pages, believes that she was "only slightly exaggerating".)

Saunders has been able to draw on material not available to earlier biographers. An unpublished novel has come to light, 30 or more unrecorded periodical pieces and a batch of letters from Ford to a previously unknown lover. There is also much fresh information in recent biographies of members of Ford's circle and in their published correspondence — Conrad, Rrys, Lawrence, Caroline Gordon.

A nyone intimidated by a work conceived on this scale could lumbler up by sampling the index, where some of the entries are extremely entertaining — "Shaw, George Bernard"; advises Ford to get an artificial British conscience"; "Pound, Ezra: makes descent into hell by falling through stage".

Some of those about Ford read like cod captions for cartoons — by Bateman, perhaps, or the early Heath Robinson: "bus crash with Arnold Bennett"; "inherits Rossetti's Inverness cape"; "watches chimney sweep from Basel window". My favourite is "makes cutting speech to German waiter (who kills himself)".

It would be nice if some of this stylistic leaven spilled over into the text of Volume II. As he works, Saunders should repeat to himself what Pound in his obituary said about Ford's prose — "it lay so natural on the page that one didn't notice it".

A tale told by a toad

THE NATTERJACK is a rare and curious British toad distinguished for its agility. This is a novel narrated by a human natterjack, a work as rare and curious as its eponymous toad.

On one level, *Natterjack* is the autobiography of one R.T. Shearer. He tells us of a strange childhood in Spain, of his days at a Scottish public school and of the friend he made there, MacBeth. We pass with him through university and on to his joining MacBeth's family firm in Edinburgh. He is married, divorced. The firm thrives. It over-expands. Shearer guides the firm to calmer waters and himself to retirement back in Spain.

In this sense, *Natterjack* is a straightforward *bildungsroman*. Shearer learns as he ages what might lie beyond the "exigent beating of a soul alone". Yet Niall Duthie dresses these bare bones with the intensity of Shearer's introspection, his "emotional extrusion, a ghostly secret hermit". For this alone the novel would be remarkable. But there is also a searing and searching analysis of love: love found

Ross Leckie

NATTERJACK
By Niall Duthie
Faber, £2.99, ppb original

then lost, love never found, love "chosen for its very hopelessness".

As if this were not enough, Duthie weaves into the narrative a compelling study of words. What is the difference between description and definition? Where are words, he makes us ask, within "anoxia", that hypothetical state of consciousness in which there is sensation, but no thought?

All this Duthie conveys in quite extraordinary prose. Duthie is a semantic acrobat, although his search for the striking leads him sometimes to pile Pelion on Ossa. Readers will have to separate their glibness from their subtleties and acknowledge agonist motivations.

YET DUTHIE has a sure hand with character, from the bumbling fund manager, Duncan, who sacks an assistant "because his young wife had an ectopic pregnancy", to Shearer's first fiancée Iris, who might have "joined loneliness and rank laundry basket as assistant matron in a genteel girls' school".

The task that Duthie sets himself in his second novel is great. The ambition is worthy of Macbeth and the tale no less salutary. It resonates Carey's *Ilywhacker* or O'Brien's *At Swim Two Birds* or Eco's *Foucault's Pendulum* and yet remains entirely *sui generis*: utterly, if remorselessly, its own.

Walls of words

DALE PECK'S second novel will not cause the sensation of his first. By according to his British publisher's decision to title his debut *Fucking Martin*, Peck ensured a flurry of hankie-waving publicity, and a discussion not so much about literature as marketing. So it is up to the soberly-named *The Law of Enclosures* to reveal his true worth.

This is a novel divided in three. The first and third sections give us Beatrice and Henry, parents of John and Susan. Peck has brought them on from his first work. They show Beatrice and Henry's courtship, which has the air of a battle fought

against the humour growing in Henry's skull and from which he believes he will die; and their unhappy, mid-sized marriage, run down into drink and pills and affairs.

But the three sections do not interact, and the central section does nothing so much as reveal the weaknesses of what surrounds it. There is an emptiness here. It isn't enough to dissect the corpse of a love affair and lay out its shrivelled organs on a porcelain table for examination.

The violent ending seems a last-gasp rush for plot.

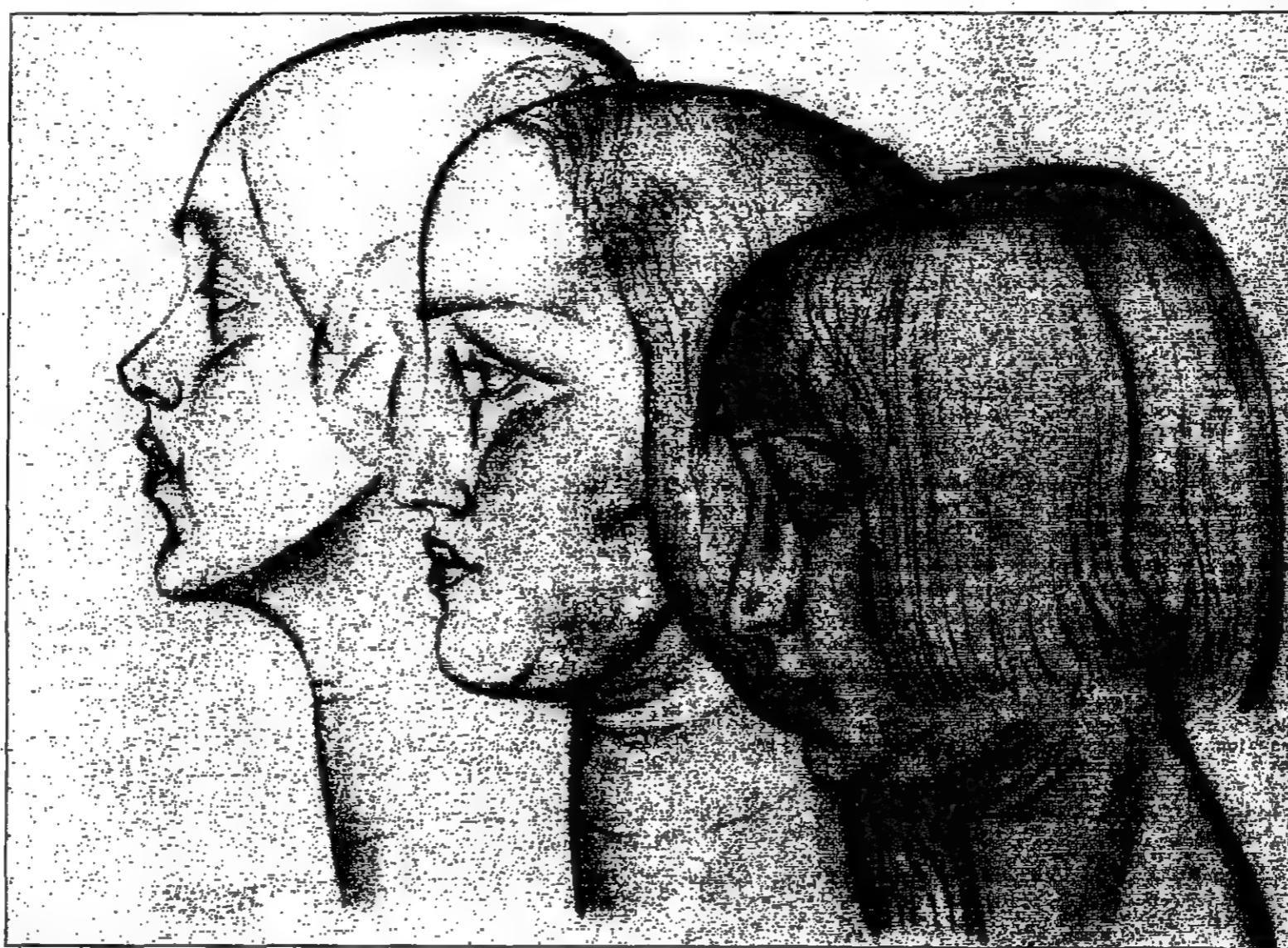
"If you could touch it you believed you could know it; you believed that everything you touched was everything that could be known, and this knowledge was your small defence against an inhospitable world."

THESE FEW lines, taken from the novel's centre — the you in question is Peck's father — could be the author's credo. For all its flaws, *The Law of Enclosures* is a powerfully physical novel, its precise, unflinching prose able to convey bodily experience so clearly that the text seems to have as much scent as texture. And yes, this skill may be Peck's downfall, drawing him away from story and character into a cul-de-sac of his own technicalities.

Made by arts of war and peace

Rachel Campbell-Johnston

DAVID JONES
A Fusilier at the Front
By Anthony Hyne
Seren, £14.95
DAVID JONES
The Maker Unmade
By Jonathan Miles and Derek Shiel
Seren, £20.95



Elizabeth, Petra and Joanna Gill (1924, watercolour and pencil); a gift for their parents, Eric and Mary Gill (David Jones: *The Maker Unmade*)

which were to make the first deep impact upon his work.

In *A Fusilier at the Front* Jones's nephew, Anthony Hyne, gathers together all the surviving drawings from his uncle's wartime notebooks. These sketches, each displaying opposite selected extracts from Jones's 1937 prose-poem *In Parenthesis*, and from his letters and journals, build up into a moving portrait of his time in a Winchester training camp, in the killing fields of France, and in Limerick where he was posted after his collapse from trench fever. The rats, the wintry bleakness, the

devastation and the misery are all evoked with a veracity and a tender intimacy. It is those things which are wounded, Jones was later to write, "which are most worthy of our worship".

David Jones: *The Maker*

Unmade also begins with a chapter on Jones's wartime experiences. But the volume

goes on to set this in the much wider context of his later life and development. It takes the reader through Jones's post-war years at Westminster School of Art, exploring his gradual engagement with international trends in painting. It traces his developing relationship with Eric Gill, his strengthening belief in the

Roman Catholic faith and the gradual convergence of his aesthetic and religious ideas. It teases out the strands of an imagination which clung to the scarp slope of time, haunted by the heroes both of classical and celtic myth. Gradually, as these differing influences weave and interweave, the shifting patterns of

a multifarious mind emerge more clearly.

At times the analysis of individual works seems tortuous and the flow of the text grows clogged with detail. But the accompanying illustrations are excellent. Jones's paintings are exquisitely delicate. Images fluttering through webs of spindly lines

are daintily tickled by limpid colour. The wealth and quality of the reproductions in this book capture the finer details of such works and convey the wide range of Jones's output from his earliest naturalistic landscapes to the simplicity of his later engravings in which he explored the abstract potential of letter forms.

THE TIMES

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Richard Dawkins

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Sagan: Earth's ambassador?

considerable profit when they sell their stories to the press: "Occasionally, I get a letter from someone who is in contact with extraterrestrials. I am invited to ask them anything. And so over the years I've prepared a little list of questions. The extraterrestrial aliens are very advanced researchers. So I ask things like, 'Please provide a short proof of Fermat's Last Theorem... I never get an answer. On the other hand, if I ask something like 'Should we be good?' I almost always get an answer. Anything vague, especially involving conventional moral judgments, these aliens are extremely happy to respond to. But on anything specific, where there is a chance to find out if they actually know anything beyond what humans know, there is only silence.'

Among the gifts science has to offer is, in Sagan's words, a halcyon detection kit. Here is how the superhuman extraterrestrials who swarm to Earth to abduct humans for sexual experiments for the victims

Scientists are sometimes suspected of arrogance. Sagan commands to us by contrast the humility of the Roman Catholic Church, which, as early as 1992, was ready to grant a pardon to Galileo and admit publicly that the Earth does indeed revolve around the Sun. We must hope that this outspoken magnificence will not cause any offence or "hurt" to the supreme religious authority of Saudi Arabia. Sheikh Abdel-Aziz Ibn Baaz who, according to Sagan, in 1993 "issued an edict, or fatwa, declaring that the world is flat. Anyone of the round persuasion does not believe in God and should be punished." Arrogance? Scientists are amateurs, in arrogancy.

Moreover, they have a modicum to be arrogant about. Scientists can routinely predict a solar eclipse, to the minute, a millennium in advance. You can go to the witch doctor to lift the spell that causes your pernicious anaemia, or you can take Vitamin B12. If you want to save your child from polio, you can pray or you can inoculate. If you're interested in the sex of your unborn child, you can consult plumbob dandlers all you want... but they'll be right on average, only one time in two. If you want real accuracy... my anniversaries... and... sonograms. Try science.

I wish I had written *The Demon-Haunted World*. Having failed to do so, the least I can do is press it upon my friends. Please read this book.

Richard Dawkins is the first holder of Oxford's Charles Simonyi Chair in the Public Understanding of Science. His new book, *Climbing Mount Improbable*, will be published in 1997.

Erica Wagner

THE LAW OF ENCLOSURES

By Dale Peck

Chatto & Windus, £15.99

THESE FEW lines, taken from the novel's centre — the you in question is Peck's father — could be the author's credo. For all its flaws, *The Law of Enclosures* is a powerfully physical novel, its precise, unflinching prose able to convey bodily experience so clearly that the text seems to have as much scent as texture. And yes, this skill may be Peck's downfall, drawing him away from story and character into a cul-de-sac of his own technicalities.

US hotel giants prepare to invade Europe

By DAVID CHURCHILL

BRITISH and European hotel groups face a major invasion into their markets by several leading US hotel chains which are currently finalising plans to open new hotels in the UK and on the Continent.

Their determination to penetrate the European market follows lack of expansion opportunities in the mature US hotel sector. In addition, the availability of the former Forte-owned Meridien and Exclusive Ho-

les in Europe, which are being auctioned off by new owners Granada, has stirred the American interest in Europe.

The Radisson SAS group yesterday announced four new hotels in Italy — in Milan, Brescia, Lodi and Bergamo — and is planning two hotels in Paris as well as properties in Cardiff and Manchester. The company says its strategy is to open at least eight new hotels a year in Europe over the next few years, adding to its 55 hotels in 17 countries worldwide.

The Chicago-based Hyatt chain is also targeting Europe, with six new hotels planned over the next two years, starting with Antwerp, followed by Paris and Germany.

This week Westin Hotels also announced its latest move into Europe with a link-up with Demure Hotels, owned by the French Compagnie Générale des Eaux group. The seven hotels in the Demure group, including four in Paris and one each in London, Amsterdam and Geneva, will be rebranded as Westin Demure Hotels from April 1 when the partnership comes into effect.

"This is an important move for us as it establishes Westin in these key European markets for business travellers as well as luxury leisure travellers," says Denis Johnson, Westin's regional vice-president for Europe.

Marriott, one of the US hotel chains interested in buying the former Forte luxury hotels from Granada, says it is looking to add between 6,000 and 8,000 rooms in Europe. At present, Marriott has some 18 hotels in Europe with four under construction. In the UK the Whitbread brewing group, which already operates 16 Marriott hotels and a franchise arrangement, plans to convert ten of its existing hotels to Marriott Properties.

ITT Sheraton, which last year acquired the Ciga chain from the Aga Khan, tomorrow opens a new Sheraton Hotel at Paris Charles de Gaulle airport.

PHILIP DUNN

Ireland unites on tourism front

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

THE TWO ministers responsible for encouraging tourists to visit the whole of Ireland will today sit side by side in a London hotel and insist that the Irish travel renaissance must continue.

Baroness Denton, the Northern Ireland Tourism Minister, and her Irish counterpart, Enda Kenny, will launch the first joint travel workshop for some 350 travel agents and tour operators from the British mainland.

The growth of tourism, especially to Ulster, following the original ceasefire has been phenomenal. During 1995 the number of visitors to Northern Ireland went up by 17 per cent to reach a record 1.5 million. Of those, 430,000 were holidaymakers — an increase of 56 per cent on 1994. And the amount of money spent by tourists to the Province grew even more sharply to reach £220 million.

Hotels filled 62 per cent of their rooms on average, compared with 51 per cent in 1994, and 68 per cent of visitors were from abroad.

The Irish Republic has also benefited from the peace, with 2.3 million visitors from Britain alone, compared with 2.03 million the previous year.

The two tourist authorities have been working together more closely for the past 18 months and today's workshop was intended to win over thousands of holidaymakers who may still harbour doubts about security.

The bomb in Docklands last Friday, however, has changed the emphasis with both ministers now determined to persuade the industry to put up the business-as-usual signs.

The main concern is that American, Asian and European tourists may stay away. The Americans are known for their fickle attitude to

holiday destinations. Last year Britain benefited from the large number of Americans who changed their plans for travelling to Paris once bombs began to go off in the French capital.

But last night the indications were that US visitors were remaining calm. "The reaction from our offices in America is one of very muted concern," said Anthony Sell, chief executive of the British Tourist Authority. "The Americans seem more philosophical, perhaps because they have now experienced bombs themselves at the World Trade Centre and in Oklahoma."

A similar attitude has so far been taken by visitors from Europe and Asia, with no reported cancellations of visits to the United Kingdom.

Terrorism had never had a major effect on tourism to Britain, Mr Sell said. "Economic factors and transport connections are more likely to affect tourism trends, which now look very positive. We are expecting over 24 million visitors spending some £12 billion down the aisle."

Nevertheless, the travel and tourism industry throughout the British Isles — which last year recorded an overall increase of 18 per cent in expenditure by foreign visitors — is nervously awaiting any aftershocks from the Docklands bomb.

Nowhere has this been more apparent than in Belfast, where hoteliers, taxis and tour guides were stunned by the IRA's ending of the ceasefire. They were looking forward to an even better year this year.

Ironically, there is a glimmer of hope. Since the bomb the Northern Ireland Tourist Board has had an increase in calls from potential tourists on the mainland expressing support and asking for brochures.

Ferry companies offer joint tickets

By STEVE KEENAN

TWO ferry companies have pooled resources on the competitive Irish Sea to offer holidaymakers a choice of travel routes. P&O European Ferries and Irish Ferries will allow passengers to travel out with one company and back with the other, on a new "circuit of Ireland" ticket.

They can choose from P&O's Scottish crossing of Cairnryan-Larne and Irish Ferries' two routes from Wales — Holyhead-Dublin and Penbrooke-Rosslare.

With only one Irish Sea route, the deal is particularly significant for P&O, which is desperately trying to protect its cross-Channel operation from Eurotunnel. But it boosts both companies' rivalry with Stena Line, which is preparing

to launch a high-speed service (HSS) on Holyhead-Dun Laoghaire on March 1. The HSS will carry 1,500 passengers and 375 cars and cut crossing times in half, to 99 minutes. A second HSS is due to come into service on Stranraer-Belfast in June. Irish Ferries will also have a new ship, the *Isle of Innisfree*, on Holyhead-Dublin this summer.

Prices for the circuit of Ireland ticket start at £138 for a car and five passengers. Irradially, the new deal was announced just hours before the IRA bombing last Friday. But with the fierce price war on the Channel this year, ferry companies are looking to increase their profits on their Irish Sea operations.



After a ten-year break, Air Jamaica is once more flying passengers to the land of golden sand and clear blue sea

Air Jamaica is born again

By STEVE KEENAN

FASHION shows at 30,000 feet will be revived when Air Jamaica returns to Heathrow after a ten-year absence next month. The airline was renowned in the 1960s for the 30-minute spectacular shows, featuring crew dressed in the latest Caribbean fashions sashaying down the aisle.

But the curtain came down when the government-owned airline stopped flying to London due to financial cutbacks. A decade on, it has been privatised and reborn under the chairmanship of Butch Stewart, Jamaica's equivalent of Richard Branson.

Jamaican-born Stewart is the majority shareholder in the airline, his money

made in manufacturing and the Sandals resort hotels in the Caribbean. Last year, he was awarded the country's national honour, the Order of Jamaica.

"His philosophy is service, service and more service," said Tony Cowles, the managing director, in London this week.

The fashion shows will be accompanied by free Mumma's champagne for economy and business passengers, with Caribbean dishes included in the fare. The airline employs a full-time chef.

There will be 16 business class and 180 economy seats on new Airbus 310s, with Air Jamaica competing against British Airways on the routes to Montego Bay and Kingston. It starts flying on March 30 with three flights a week, the same frequency as BA. But Air Jamaica will fly four times a week in peak summer and five next winter. It also wants to fly from Manchester but is currently precluded by air agreements between the two countries.

Fares start at £664 in economy rising to £1,806 return in business class, the same rates as BA.

"The service on board will be absolutely tremendous," said William Rodgers, senior vice-president of marketing. "We are going to give BA a lot of trouble."

• Air Jamaica reservations: 081-570 7999.

Business travellers seek greater luxury

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

BRITAIN'S middle managers have had enough of being forced to cut costs whenever they travel, and are now demanding business-class air travel and four-star hotel accommodation.

George Paton, chairman of the Guild of British Travel Agents, whose 38 members are responsible for organising 80 per cent of the £5.5 billion spent by companies on business travel, said yesterday that middle managers were now "flexing their muscles".

"At the beginning of the winter there was a sadness and

marked change in the way business travellers made their arrangements," he said. "There was a reversal of the trend for cost to be the most important element of any business travel. The benefits which can now be obtained, especially in long-haul travel, from greater space and fast-track Customs and immigration procedures are now tangible rather than nebulous."

"It has been shown also to be a perfect opportunity to do business on aeroplanes and in hotels, provided you are and travelling with your peers

and potential customers."

The drive to attract the fast-expanding business travel market is bolstered this week by the Business Travel '96 Exhibition in London, where 130 companies are displaying their new products to a potential audience of 10,000 corporate travel managers throughout the country.

The exhibition, which includes airlines, hotels and a range of high-tech equipment designed to cut costs and make travel more efficient, is at the Business Design Centre, in north London, until tomorrow.

The exhibition, which includes airlines, hotels and a range of high-tech equipment designed to cut costs and make travel more efficient, is at the Business Design Centre, in north London, until tomorrow.

The ETB chairman, Adele Biss, said: "If future generations are to make the most of our diverse and splendid coastal and urban environment, we be needed."

The office eased the workload for other representation offices. Damian O'Grady, of the Florida Division of Tourism, said: "They handle a lot of inquiries on our behalf. But now there is no filter and we will have a lot more work."

Around 3.4 million Britons are expected to visit America this year, more than half heading for Florida, and long-haul travel is selling well, with bookings up 33 per cent.

An advertising campaign which the US TTA is committed to will continue to run until the end of March and the number advertised, 0891 136 136, will function until then.

THE decision to close the United States Travel and Tourism Administration will mean more than three million Britons bound for America this year face a time-consuming hunt for information.

Holidaymakers will have to rely on the 34 US states or cities which have offices in Britain, but many areas are not represented at all.

The US Government is closing the US TTA offices worldwide at the end of March in a cost-saving exercise. The ten staff in the US Embassy in London will be out of work.

"They've talked about it for years but now they have eliminated us," said Jackie Gibson, UK marketing manager.

"I am very disappointed.

We will be the only major player in the UK without a tourist office."

The US TTA opened in London in 1962. At its peak, it received 30,000 visitors a year. It moved into the Embassy in 1991 and closed its walk-in service.

The office eased the workload for other representation offices. Damian O'Grady, of the Florida Division of Tourism, said: "They handle a lot of inquiries on our behalf. But now there is no filter and we will have a lot more work."

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Air of controversy surrounds efforts to keep running noses open

Athletes sniff a chance to go faster

Clamping a clothes peg on your nose in the interests of sporting science is a tough assignment. But it is just one of the workouts my nose has been subjected to this week in an endeavour to unravel the latest athletic mystery: can a strip of plaster over your nose make you run faster?

Nasal strips are the latest sporting aid for gimmicks to come out of the United States, where the market for them is said to be worth \$1.5 billion a year. The marketing men say potential customers include "anyone who has a nose". American football players were the first sportsmen to endorse them, and television viewers here will have seen them being used by the South African rugby team during the World Cup last summer.



They have spread rapidly to the playing fields of Britain. Half of England's rugby team now wear them — Mike Cain is described by Breath Right Strips as "our official endorser for the rugby sector" — and the enterprising manufacturers have sent go-faster plasters to the Scotland, Wales, Ireland and Wales rugby teams, as well as the England Football Club, the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race squads.

They have been seen on noses dipped low over handlebars in the Tour de France and there were so many in the New York Marathon that one observer said it looked like a plastic surgeon's convention. There will be 30,000 of them handed out at the Flora London Marathon in April, which will mean a lot of exposure for what looks like the most improbable sporting device in town.

The principle is simple enough. They supposedly improve breathing by opening up the nasal passages, and consist of a couple of plastic strips, rather like collar stiffeners, in a piece of adhesive tape. Stick it across the bridge of your nose and it acts like a spring flaring your nostrils until you feel like Kenneth Williams in *Carry On Up The Olympics*.

The makers say the strips have been "clinically shown to reduce nasal airflow resistance an average of 31 per cent". They were originally developed not to win ball games but to stop snoring. The inventor, Bruce Johnson, a middle-aged landscape gardener, stuffed all sorts of things up his nose in pursuit of a night's sleep. He tried everything from bent paper-clips covered in cotton wool to sawn-off plastic straws... "This was stuff you don't want to try at home," Johnson said. "I was desperate."

What he came up with has won medical approval in the United States as a snore-buster but many experts sniff at claims of improved sporting performance. Peter Sperrey, author of *Sport and Medicine*, dismisses them as "total rubbish — a mere fashion fetish. Nobody breathes through the nose in sport and there's no advantage in doing so. It's mumbum-jump, like most of the stuff that comes out of America about sports diet."

"They'll make a load of money, of course. I wish I'd thought of it. The strips were invented to stop snoring so they have a great marketing opportunity at Lord's — all those cricket watchers who drop off after lunch should boost sales no end."

Alan Storey, general manager of the Flora London Marathon and a leading athletic coach, agreed. "The amount of air that you can take in through your nose is irrelevant," he said. "It's not what you can get in, it's what you can absorb that matters. The strips may help psychologically, but opening your mouth when you exercise is a reflex action — you don't have to decide to do it." Storey said none of the athletes he coaches used the strips. "If they did," he added, "I'd send them home for being improperly dressed."

Steve Seaton, editor of *Runner's World*, said that physiologists he had spoken to were highly sceptical about the benefits of nasal strips for sports people — one thought the biggest effect was likely to be an outbreak of skin rashes on the nose. But Seaton admitted there was a paradox. "Thousands are using them, whatever the doctors say, and all the runners that I've talked to reckon they feel better with the strips than without."

That is certainly the case for the



Plastered in Paris: Sleightholme sports a go-faster device for his international debut last month.

England rugby player, Jon Sleightholme, The Bath wing, who made his international debut against France last month, said: "They work very well. They open up the airways and feel great. Loads of players are using them and, if they weren't working, they wouldn't use them." Like many rugby players, Sleightholme has suffered a broken nose, which he said felt blocked without the strips.

Enthusiasm like that of Sleightholme has seen off a race to dominate the market. In Britain, Breath Right are lined up against

Easy Breathing — both now launching their products here — and, worldwide, fierce patent battles are being fought.

My own battles this week have included several runs with Easy Breathing nose strips — and one with a clothes peg. I tested myself, and my nose, by running three times over the same distance at a constant effort (as measured by a pulse monitor). I ran first with the nasal strip to give me maximum nose input. Then I ran equipped only with the nose that God gave me. Finally I ran with my nose shut down completely, my nostrils clamped firmly with a clothes peg.

There was no significant difference in the times taken — though the clothes peg option was by far the most uncomfortable. The jury is clearly still out on nose strips, and I shall continue to gather evidence.

Come next April and the Flora London Marathon, it may be that we shall, to our surprise, see the winner snuffing victory with a go-faster plaster on his nose. Maybe... but don't hold your breath.

JOHN BRYANT

Privy Council

Council liable for economic loss

Invercargill City Council v Hamlin

Before Lord Keith of Kinkeil, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Mustill, Lord Lloyd of Berwick and Sir Michael Hardie Boys

Judgment February 12

The Court of Appeal of New Zealand was entitled to hold that a local authority was liable to the owner of a house built with defective foundations for the economic loss caused by the authority's negligent inspection of the foundations notwithstanding the decision of the House of Lords to the contrary in *Murphy v Brentwood District Council* [1991] 1 AC 308. The common law adapted itself to the differing circumstances of the country in which it had taken root.

Given that the loss in respect of which a plaintiff sued for latent defects in buildings was now recognised to be economic loss rather than physical damage, the New Zealand courts had correctly held that the cause of action accrued when the defect could reasonably have been discovered, since that was when the value of the building depreciated and all the elements necessary to support the claim came into existence.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council to hear in December an appeal by Invercargill City Council from the judgment of the Court of Appeal of New Zealand [Sir Robin Cooke President, Mr Justice Richardson, Mr Justice Casey, Mr Justice Gaunt and Mr Justice McKay] on September 1, 1994 upholding the order of Mr Justice Williamson, who had awarded the plaintiff, Mr N. G. Hamlin, damages against the council for having negligently approved defective foundations during the construction of the plaintiff's house in 1972.

Miss Denise Bates and Mrs Susan Barnby, both of the New Zealand Bar, for the council; Miss Christine French, for the New Zealand Bar, for the plaintiff.

LORD LLOYD, delivering the judgment of the Board, said that the judge had held that the builders were in breach of contract, since the foundations had not been laid in accordance with the specification, but they were no longer in business.

With regard to the plaintiff's claim in tort against the council, the judge had held that the

council's building inspector had been negligent in carrying out his inspection and that a reasonably prudent homeowner would not have suspected the foundations or discovered the cause of the trouble until 1989, when the plaintiff had called in a second builder, who said he foundations were defective.

It followed that, as New Zealand law then stood, his claim against the council was in time. Since it was admitted, for the purposes of the hearing before the judge, that the council was under a duty of care towards the plaintiff, the judge upheld the plaintiff's claim.

On the court's appeal there were two main issues for determination. Since the concession made in the Court of Appeal, the first question was whether the council owed any duty of care to the plaintiff at all. It argued that the defendant ought to follow the decisions of the House of Lords in *D and F Estates Ltd v Church Commissioners for England* [1991] AC 177 and *Murphy*.

The second question was whether the plaintiff's claim was time-barred. The council argued that the Court of Appeal ought to follow the decision of the House of Lords in *Pirelli General Cable Products Ltd v Oscar Faber and Partners* [1983] 2 AC 1, in other words, that the cause of action accrued when the damage to the house came into existence, and not when it could, with reasonable diligence, have been discovered. The judge rejected the plaintiff's claim in tort.

The appeal came before a full court of five judges. They answered the first question unanimously, and the second, by a majority, in favour of the plaintiff.

There was no doubt that the decision of the Court of Appeal was in accordance with the law as it had been developed by New Zealand courts over the last 20 years. Sir Robin Cooke observed that "the linked" concepts of "reliance and control" had underlined the New Zealand case law from *Bowen v Paramount Builders (Hamilton) Ltd* [1975] 2 NZLR 546 onwards.

Before the Board, the council had argued that Bowen had been explicitly based on the English decision in *Dutton v Bogner Regis Urban District Council* [1972] 1 QB 473 and the authority of the line of cases which followed Bowen.

Premature advert

In re a Company [No 62 of 1995]

Although in the case of a contributory's petition to wind up a company there was no provision in the Insolvency Rules (SI 1986 No 192) prohibiting advertisement of it prior to presentation, it was inherent in those rules that there had to be no such advertisement prior to the return date.

Mr Justice Laddie so held in the Chancery Division on January 29,

was reinforced by the decision of the House of Lords in *Arns v Merron London Borough Council* [1979] 2 NLR 234. In that case Mr Justice Cooke said that a plaintiff could recover in tort for economic loss "at least when that loss is associated with physical damage... Such a cause of action must arise... when the defect becomes apparent or manifest."

The Court of Appeal below had reconsidered the matter in the light of *Pirelli* but had reaffirmed the New Zealand approach on limitation.

In the Board's view, once it was appreciated that the loss in respect of which the plaintiff in the present case was suing was loss to his pocket, and not for physical damage to the house or foundations, then most, if not all the difficulties surrounding the limitation question fell away.

The plaintiff could not postpone the start of the limitation period by shutting his eyes to the obvious. The cause of action accrued when the cracks became so bad, or the defects so obvious, that any reasonable homeowner would call an architect to examine the building.

New Zealand cases were in a much better position to decide on such matters as the Board. Whether circumstances were in fact so very different in England and New Zealand might not matter greatly. What mattered was the perception.

Both Mr Justice Richardson and Mr Justice McKay in their judgments below stressed that to change New Zealand law so as to make it comply with *Murphy* would have "significant community implications" and would require a "major constitutional shift". It would be rash for the Board to ignore those views.

The facts as found by the judge raised in an acute form the question when the plaintiff's cause of action accrued. If the cause of action arose at the time of the negligent act or omission, or when the first cracks appeared, then it was obvious that the plaintiff's claim in tort against the council would be time-barred.

But if the cause of action did not accrue until the plaintiff was advised in 1989 that the foundations were defective, and if, as the judge found, a reasonably prudent homeowner would not have discovered the cause of the cracks any earlier, then the proceedings were in time. Which view was correct?

In New Zealand the law had been relatively clear and straightforward since at least the decision

of the Court of Appeal in *Mount Albert Borough Council v Johnson* [1979] 2 NLR 234. In that case Mr Justice Cooke said that a plaintiff could recover in tort for economic loss "at least when that loss is associated with physical damage... Such a cause of action must arise... when the defect becomes apparent or manifest."

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated when dismissing an appeal brought by Mr Greener by way of case stated from Newcastle Crown Court (Mr Recorder Nolan, QC and Justices) on appeal from a decision of North Shields Justice who had found that an offence had been committed contrary to section 3(3) of the 1991 Act. Mr Greener was absolutely discharged, fined £40 costs and the dog ordered to be destroyed.

Section 3 of the 1991 Act provides:

"(3) if the owner... of a dog allows it to enter a place which is not open to the public or which is not permitted to be there and while it is there (a) it injures any person, or

(b) it grieves any person, an aggravated offence, under this subsection."

Mr Greener submitted that it could not be said that Mr Greener allowed the dog to enter the garden as a positive or permissible step to be proved. He also submitted that on the true construction of section 3(3) there had to be some mental element in the form of intention, desire or foresight of the consequences.

His Lordship said that section 3(3) could not require proof of a positive or permissible step. The word "allows" included taking or omitting to take a positive step.

Mr Duff argued that subsection 3(3) did not require proof of a positive or permissible step. The word "allows" included taking or omitting to take a positive step.

Mr Greener failed to adduce any adequate preconditions. As a master of ordinary language, leaving aside the issue of mens rea, he allowed the dog to get into the garden.

The difficulty in the present case was that subsection 3(3) created an offence for which a prison term could be imposed.

His Lordship wholly accepted that the court had to look carefully at statutes imposing criminal sanctions to see that Parliament intended an offence without mens rea.

The difficulty in the present case was that subsection 3(3) created an offence for which a prison term could be imposed under subsection 3(3). Therefore it was Parliament's intention to impose that draconian measure in relation to an absolute offence.

Mr Duff argued that subsection 3(3) provided for a defence against an offence under subsection 3(1) and that a similar defence was not

available in relation to subsection 3(3).

However, his Lordship noted that subsection 3(3) used the word "allows" and if the Crown was not able as a master of common sense to prove ordinary causation that the defendant allowed his dog to stray, then there was no offence.

But in the present case as a master of common sense and ordinary language, Mr Greener's failure allowed the dog to go into the garden.

It was impossible to spell out of the Act that Parliament intended any mental element to be part of subsection 3(3). It would have been easy to add words like "intention, desire or knowledge or foresight of the consequences" but they were not there.

Thus an offence under section 3(3) could be committed by omission.

Further, the crown court had been correct in deciding that if a dog was secured with what the owner genuinely, though erroneously, believed to be adequate precautions and it escaped and entered a place where it was not permitted to be, the owner had "allowed the dog to enter" that place, provided on the facts it could be said, as a master of ordinary language and causation, the defendant allowed the dog to enter the prohibited place.

Mr Justice Blafield agreed.

Solicitors: Hindle Campbell, North Shields; Crown Prosecution Service, Newcastle upon Tyne.

VAT on brokers' fees is recoverable

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v UBAF Bank Ltd

Before Lord Justice Saville and Sir John Balcombe

Judgment February 1

Value-added tax charged by solicitors and brokers could be recovered in full in input tax even though the supplies on which the VAT had been paid were not attributable to the taxable output of the taxpayer.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment in dismissing an appeal brought by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise against the dismissal by Mr Justice Macpherson of Cluny on December 2, 1993 of their appeal against the decision of a VAT tribunal dated February 3, 1993 which had held that the claim could recover the entire input tax.

The tribunal had held that the claimant could recover the entire input tax, £10,480.91 to be credited but had disputed the remaining £28,530.44.

Mr Kenneth Parker, QC, for the Commissioners and Excise, Mr P. P. Cargill-Thompson for the bank

and Messrs. Simmonds, Church & Snakes, Alan Taylor & Co.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that the appeal was concerned with VAT charged on fees paid by UBAF Bank Ltd to solicitors and brokers in connection with the

acquisition

of shares

by the bank

and the

businesses

of those

companies

which

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Cheltenham contenders advertise claims with fine Ascot displays

Osborne concussed after Coulton fall

By JULIAN MUSCAT

THOSE left unmoved by the spectacle of steeplechasing should have been at Ascot yesterday, when three superb performances made an uncomfortable contrast with the silhouette of Jamie Osborne lying prostrate on the turf.

Osborne had barely stopped enthusing about Seekin Cash's professional victory in the Shenley Enterprises Hurdle before he was knocked unconscious in a sickening fall from Coulton. The gelding had thrown some mighty leaps, but his commitment to

Nap: SOHRAB
(3.45 Sandown Park)
Next best: Equity Player
(2.35 Sandown Park)

Thunderer leapt the last of the seven fences, Soggy Bottom. His Ascot winners included Landed Gunny (6-1) and he was on the mark at Lingfield (2-1).

the twelfth fence was taken at best. It left Osborne in an ambulance destined for Weyham Park Hospital in Slough, to be followed by a lengthy spell on the sidelines.

Norman Gordon, the racecourse doctor at Ascot, said Osborne was stretchered away in a neck brace for precautionary X-rays and scans. Although he saw no evidence of physical injury, Gordon suggested the jockey would almost certainly be out of action for 21 days. Osborne



HUGH ROUTLEDGE

was expected to be detained in hospital overnight.

The competitive nature of jump jockeys is such that Osborne's initial reaction on recovering his senses, will have been to lament his missing the ride on Alderbrook at Wincanton a week today. Kim Bailey, who trains the reigning

champion hurdler, will almost certainly turn to Graham Bradley as Richard Dunwoody's riding arrangements have assumed a seemingly infinite series of permutations.

The jockeys' merry-go-round surrounding Bailey's championship contenders was

triggered by the injury on Saturday to his stable jockey, Norman Williamson, who is optimistic of making the Cheltenham Festival in less than four weeks. "I hope Norman will be riding out in the next ten days and have a week in the saddle before Cheltenham," Bailey said.

High among Bailey's chances of a Festival winner is Seekin Cash, who revelled in the soft ground here. His dominant performance immediately earned him favouritism for the Stayers' Hurdle, and on this evidence, he will take a deal of beating in testing conditions.

THUNDERER
1.20 Respectable Jones, 1.50 Master Aspects, 2.25 Milligan, 3.00 Charming Bride, 3.35 Donmoor, 4.05 Sharp Imp, 4.35 Iron Gold.
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.00 Charming Bride, 3.35 CREEKING (nap); 4.35 Gold Blade.

**GOING: STANDARD
DRAW: 6F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST**

1.20 AXA EQUITY & LAW HANDICAP
(IV, 22, 178, 10) (10 runners)

1 - 008 OUR SHADOE (2,02,08) K Hay 6-11 - G Scully (7) 2 - 022 APOLLO RED (2,05,05) A Morris 6-11 - J Morris (7) 3 - 043 RESPECTABLE JONES (2,02,08) K Hay 6-11 - G Scully (7) 4 - 018 PERSUASIVE 10 (2,02,08) G Vines 6-11 - J Morris (7) 5 - 022 JEWELL 12 (2,02,08) F Vines 6-11 - G Scully (7) 6 - 022 AL SHAR 26 (2,02,08) G Vines 6-11 - A Clark 7 - 040 ZUMBA FLYER 4 (2,02,08) G Vines 6-11 - J Morris (7) 8 - 040 ZEEDER 15 (2,02,08) G Vines 6-11 - J Morris (7) 9 - 040 ZEEDER 15 (2,02,08) G Vines 6-11 - J Morris (7) 10 - 040 DIAMOND DABLE 12 (2,02,08) G Vines 6-11 - J Morris (7) 11 - 022 JERRY BETTY, 5-2 Resorable Jones, 4-1 Apollo Red, 5-1 Iron Gold, 5-1 Thunderer, 10-1 others.

1.50 DUNGENESS POINT MASTEN STAKES
(ES, 485; 1m 10f) (10)

1 - 002 TONOMES 7 (2,02,08) R Hayes 6-11 - G Scully (7) 2 - 024 GALLONNE 2 (2,02,08) R Hayes 6-11 - G Scully (7) 3 - 040 STREYAN 20 (2,02,08) R Hayes 6-11 - G Scully (7) 4 - 040 TANBAR 8 (2,02,08) R Hayes 6-11 - G Scully (7) 5 - 040 KELARE GIRL 12 (2,02,08) R Hayes 6-11 - G Scully (7) 6 - 040 MISTER ASPECT 10 (2,02,08) J Williams 6-11 - G Scully (7) 7 - 040 ZUMBA FLYER 4 (2,02,08) G Vines 6-11 - J Morris (7) 8 - 040 ZUMBA FLYER 4 (2,02,08) G Vines 6-11 - J Morris (7) 9 - 040 ZUMBA FLYER 4 (2,02,08) G Vines 6-11 - J Morris (7) 10 - 040 DIAMOND DABLE 12 (2,02,08) G Vines 6-11 - J Morris (7) 11 - 022 JERRY BETTY, 5-2 Resorable Jones, 4-1 Apollo Red, 5-1 Iron Gold, 5-1 Thunderer, 10-1 others.

2.25 HURST POINT SELLING HANDICAP
(22, 274; 2m) (9)

1 - 002 HURST POINT 1 (2,02,08) J Hayes 6-11 - G Scully (7) 2 - 024 HURST POINT 14 (2,02,08) J Hayes 6-11 - G Scully (7) 3 - 024 BOBBY BLUE 22 (2,02,08) J Hayes 6-11 - G Scully (7) 4 - 024 MULIGANE 5 (2,02,08) J Hayes 6-11 - G Scully (7) 5 - 024 JULIASDARROWHARD 50 (2,02,08) J Hayes 6-11 - G Scully (7) 6 - 024 DESERT POINT 28 (2,02,08) R Hayes 6-11 - G Scully (7) 7 - 024 DIAMOND DABLE 10 (2,02,08) R Hayes 6-11 - G Scully (7) 8 - 024 DIAMOND DABLE 10 (2,02,08) R Hayes 6-11 - G Scully (7) 9 - 024 DIAMOND DABLE 10 (2,02,08) R Hayes 6-11 - G Scully (7) 10 - 024 DIAMOND DABLE 10 (2,02,08) R Hayes 6-11 - G Scully (7) 11 - 024 DIAMOND DABLE 10 (2,02,08) R Hayes 6-11 - G Scully (7) 12 - 024 DIAMOND DABLE 10 (2,02,08) R Hayes 6-11 - G Scully (7) 13 - 024 DIAMOND DABLE 10 (2,02,08) R Hayes 6-11 - G Scully (7) 14 - 024 DIAMOND DABLE 10 (2,02,08) R Hayes 6-11 - G Scully (7) 15 - 024 DIAMOND DABLE 10 (2,02,08) R Hayes 6-11 - G Scully (7) 16 - 024 DIAMOND DABLE 10 (2,02,08) R Hayes 6-11 - G Scully (7) 17 - 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Forest worth wait after fifth-round Cup amendment

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

MOTHER Nature has done her worst but the FA Cup fifth round — an if, but and maybe affair only a week ago — has at last taken on some semblance of shape for this weekend.

At least three ties will go ahead on Saturday, with Nottingham Forest and Tottenham Hotspur providing an appealing afterthought at the City Ground on Monday.

Forest booked their place in the last 16 after overcoming the expected stubborn resistance from Oxford United, of the Endsleigh Insurance League second division, in a fourth-round replay at the Manor Ground on Tuesday night. As is their wont of late, they were not particularly impressive and were flattered by their 3-0 victory.

"Oxford worked hard and created a lot of chances," Frank Clark, the Forest manager, conceded. "The scoreline does not exactly reflect what went on." Indeed, had it not been for goals from Woan, from a penalty, and Silenzio in the last ten minutes, which complemented Campbell's forthright effort, Forest could have been hanging on for the final whistle.

Southampton did just that in their replay at Grey's Road, experiencing a torrid closing spell as Crewe Alexandra, another second division side, gallantly but vainly tried to



the frantic finale — first by a post and then by Charlton's headed clearance off the goal-line. Southampton's next hurdle could prove equally awkward, when they take on Swindon Town, the second division leaders, at the County Ground on Saturday. Swindon knocked out Oldham Athletic 1-0 on Monday.

A third second division rep-

resentative also disappeared on Tuesday, when Walsall bowed out 1-0 away to Ipswich Town in their twice-postponed fourth-round tie. A scrappy game, on a pig of a pitch, was settled by Mason's cleanly struck sixth-minute drive.

Nicholas recalls the golden years

Kevin McCarra
on a veteran
forward honing his
skills for a meeting
with old rivals

Few would regard a bruising, exhausting ordeal as a means of recovering their youth. Instead of putting years on Charlie Nicholas, though, Clyde's Tennents Scottish Cup fourth-round tie against Rangers at Broadwood this evening will dissolve time for the veteran forward. Facing such opposition for such stakes is the standard setting of his early career.

At the beginning of the 1980s, Nicholas, then in the first of his two spells with Celtic, imbued his skill with the audacity of innocence. Trophies were his natural product. If he was never to be quite so effective with Arsenal or Aberdeen, no one anticipated that he was bound for the Bell's Scottish League second division.

Nicholas, 34, moved to Clyde on a free transfer last year. He believed that the move was giving him a stake in a dream. In defiance of financial plausibility, after all, his side are full-time and play in a new stadium financed by the local development corporation. Clyde, in addition, run the Broadwood Soccer Academy that provides coaching for 400 local youngsters every week.

All that enlightenment, however, is of no immediate help to a club whose league position is increasingly murky. Not only have Clyde dropped out of contention for promotion, they are, at seventh place in their division, not yet safe from relegation. Instead of leading a renaissance, Nicholas has begun to wonder whether it is time to head for retirement.

He may decide to give up the game this summer, even though a year of his contract remains. Nicholas freely admits that he has found it difficult to adapt to a backdrop of decrepit stadiums that contain only a sparse audience. To a lesser degree, his team-mates claim to be suffering from the same syndrome.

The crowd at Broadwood, watching some neat but ineffective performances, might be ready to dismiss such explanations as excuses, but Clyde did bolster their argument in the last round of the Cup. Given more exalted opposition, in the form of Dundee, the team's level of performance soared. They



Nicholas, who is aiming to revive Clyde's fortunes in the Cup encounter with Rangers

beat the first division side, who had already appeared in the Coca-Cola Cup final this season, 3-1.

The opening goal, a free kick curled into the top corner by Nicholas, was an expression of his gladness to be participating once more in a noteworthy game. Clyde is full of men who, like the forward, might regard the match this evening as a direct route back to their rightful place in football.

The Clyde manager, Alex Smith, was in charge of Aberdeen when they won the Skol Cup and the Scottish

Cup in the 1989-90 session. "I am enjoying the build-up with the press, radio and TV attention," Smith admitted, "and it is good to have the chance again of pitting my wits against the Rangers management."

For Smith, the significance of the tie lies in the demonstration it might provide of Clyde's potential as a club. "People will see tomorrow what the marriage between the stadium and the team is all about," he said of the five broadcast of the game on satellite television. After giving Rangers their share of the

proceeds and meeting other expenses, Clyde will be left with a £15,000 profit.

Only £19,000 was spent in transfer fees to buy the team, but Smith has often signed players regarded as outstanding talents in youth whose careers faltered at senior level. Tommy Harrison, for example, was once viewed as an outstanding prospect by Heart of Midlothian.

Even so, Smith appreciates the scale of the challenge facing his team tonight. "If we come with a big enough sting in our tails," he said, "we might do something."

New bid for Lennon, reinforces Gradi's credentials

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

FA CUP romance has not been squeezed from the calendar after all. Yesterday, Neil Lennon, the midfield player who inspired Crewe Alexandra to come back from three goals down against Southampton on Tuesday night, reaped his reward. He was the subject of a £750,000 bid by Coventry City.

Shortly after the game ended in a brave 3-2 defeat, Dario Gradi, the Crewe manager, in conversation with Jimmy Arnfield, the Football Association's advisor, was congratulated on the passing instincts of his team. The discussion dwelt on Lennon, the 24-year-old Northern Ireland international who, with sometimes deft and sometimes devastating use of his right foot, eclipsed Matthew Le Tissier as the star of the night.

"Neil always has time on the ball, he's an obvious Premiership player," Gradi said. "I don't know why people haven't seen that."

They had. While Gradi was talking, Lennon was being invited to step into the chairman's office at Gresty Road, where Bryan Richardson, the Coventry City chairman, had a proposal. The clubs had agreed on the fee and Lennon was asked to go to Highfield Road to discuss terms and conditions with Ron Atkinson, the Coventry manager.

Thus has Gradi rescued another "lost" talent. Like David Platt, Rob Jones and Craig Hignett before him, Lennon arrived at Crewe as a player noted for his gift but not his graft or application. That was almost six years ago when Manchester City, having bloodied him just once in the first team at 17, released him on a free transfer.

Lennon acknowledges his debt to Crewe, particularly when they stuck by him for 18 months after the back operation that saved his career. "Coming back from that was like coming back from being told at Manchester City that I wouldn't make it, a challenge in life. But I'm far from the finished article, believe me."

Once the deal is complete, the money will be spent on floodlighting for the club's new training ground at Nantwich. Illumination for the new grooming fields, the next generation of apprentices. Surely, while the FA dithers over the appointment of a director of coaching, it has not forgotten Gradi's application.

V Staines 0 B Steven (M) 3-1, ret L Rouse (P) 2-1 A Chisholm 2-0, 3-0, 4-0; M McGeown (P) 1st & S Stynes 0-0, 6-0; M Cheng & G Stanford (SA) 6-3, 9-0.

CHIGWELL: Merit 0, ladies' tournament (Gill Brook) 1st & 2nd: Pintos 0-0, 2-0; 3rd: 1st & 2nd: 0-0, 6-3, 9-0; 4th: 1st & 2nd: 0-0, 6-3, 9-0; 5th: 1st & 2nd: 0-0, 6-3, 9-0; 6th: 1st & 2nd: 0-0, 6-3, 9-0.

BRITISH LEAGUE: Final division: Gullane 2-2 Macduff 4 Chelmsford 8.

Challenge match: Nottingham 2 Milnathort 3.

ICE HOCKEY: Final: Cardiff 1 Aldershot 0.

REPRESENTATIVE: match

ALDERSHOT: Representative 0-0 Match 0-0.

REAL TENNIS: Final:

SEACOURT: British Land Silver Racquet championship: Final: 1st & 2nd: 0-0, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

VERMONT: Final: 1st & 2nd: 0-0, 6-3, 6-4.

Dartford 2-2 Macduff 4 Chelmsford 8.

SHEFFIELD: Women's satellite tournament: Final: 1st & 2nd: 0-0, 6-3, 6-4.

BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP: Final: 1st & 2nd: 0-0, 6-3, 6-4.

BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP: Final: 1st & 2nd: 0-0, 6-3, 6-4.

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Firework's long fuse makes it a damp squib

Tired up with endless police series? Bored by the prospect of spending yet another hour in the company of the medical profession? Well, let me command into the Fire (BBC1) to you, surely the first television thriller to be set in the murky world of... small leather goods.

And about time. I hear you say. Small leather goods have been woefully neglected by television drama - departments over the years. But no longer - the moment has finally arrived when the full dramatic potential of substandard buckles can be explored, the pros and cons of central dividers fully considered and leases given full run.

When Frank Candy last night delivered the immortal line: "What if I started making belts?", the air positively resounded with dramatic possibility. "Don't do it, Frank," they implored. "It could be dangerous." "Don't do it, Frank," begged

others. "That nasty man who we haven't seen since the first scene might sell you more duff buckles."

"Don't do it, Frank," said one voice. "It could be boring." And blow me if that lone dissenting voice didn't turn out to be mine. Frank, you may be relieved to know, did not go into belts. Instead, after 50 minutes of double-stiched, he took the coward's way out - and set fire to his factory. The relief of being back on familiar television ground was indescribable.

Now, if may be that *Into the Fire* perks up considerably from here on (parts two and three are tonight and tomorrow) but then it does have a considerable way to perk.

Frank Candy is one of the gloomiest central characters to grace our screens for years. As played by Donald McCann, Candy became a study in multi-layered misery - piled one upon the other and rebuffed just a little too

neatly. It was not the most endearing thing.

Candy also presented us with some puzzling paradoxes. Like how come a man brought up in the school of hard knocks (a northern textile town) is knocked back by the slightest adversity. Like how come a businessman who has survived two recessions appears to have only the slimmest grasp of the economic facts of life. What's going to happen in six months? he asked. "Will the bank call in the loan?" Why worry, Frank? Burn the thing down anyway.

That done, it must be said, that the ingredients are in place for improvement. We have a "hero" who appears to have got away with his crime but will be spectacularly consumed with guilt; we have a grieving but rather attractive mother and we have an insurance loss adjuster who has been rebuffed just a little too

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

hastily. As for the small leather goods? They are in ashes. Shame.

Over on Channel 4, *Dispatches* had one of its best nights in ages, with a well researched look at the science story that had made the day's headlines - a Bristol University scientist's claim to have discovered a mechanism by which electricity power lines increase the risk of cancer to those who live close to them.

Prior to Professor Denis Henshaw's claim that the electromagnetic fields around power lines attract the radioactive gas and proven carcinogen, radon, the link between electricity pylons and cancer had been a sort of modern myth - we had all heard of it, we all had friends of friends who had fallen victim to it and we were secretly relieved that we didn't live anywhere near one.

Cleverly, Peter Miron's film spent the first half suggesting that there was already enough distressing evidence to indicate that some sensible steps (such as not allowing new houses to be built directly underneath huge pylons) should be taken - even without proof of a causal link. But no sooner had a nice man from Sweden stopped talking about his government's commendable policy of "prudent avoidance" than the film produced its *coup de grace* - Henshaw's controversial evidence.

As one of Henshaw's fellow scientists said, one of the strengths of the professor's findings is that they seem to obey a lot of sensible and familiar physics.

Understandably, this put his opponents, most of whom seem to work for the Government-backed National Radiological Protection Board, at a disadvantage that perhaps (and it is only a perhaps) the film's makers may have over-exploited. Every now and then, for instance, the picture of Tim Eggar, energy minister, would be flashed on our screens, a man whose face was never designed for reassurance.

The film went on to say that the radon effect applied to all electrical appliances - alarming news for people such as me, who spend their days either watching television or gazing into a computer screen. But just as I was about to forsake the cathode ray tube

altogether, I remembered it was time for ER (Channel 4). A healthier life-style would have to wait.

Along with the repeat of *Friends* that follows it, ER has become one of the highlights of the television week. Will Carter forgive Harper? Will Dr Benton ever be nice to anyone again? Has anyone noticed that Dr Weaver has been missing for a fortnight? Well, none of the important questions were answered last night, as we spent the entire episode in the company of Dr Ross - the one with the twinkly eyes and a penchant for air-hostesses.

By its own rapid-fire standards, last night's episode slowed to a crawl with the scene of Ross (George Clooney) rescuing a boy from a blocked storm drain lasting an unprecedented 12 minutes, normally sufficient for about 15 storylines. It was ER Jim, but not as we know it.

BBC2

6.00am Business Breakfast (25554)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (58225)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (491615)
9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (a) (307403)
9.45 Kilroy Topic discussion (a) (307414)
10.30 Good Morning (a) (49689)
10.30 News (Ceefax) and weather (588493)
11.05 Sports Turnabout (a) (342339)
11.30 Going for a Song (a) (67221)
9.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (588492) 12.30 Regional News and weather (7747196)
1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (a) (3425228)
2.00 Pabbie Mix (a) (593134)
2.40 The Flying Doctors (Ceefax) (a) (4911009)
3.30 The New Yogi Bear Show (f) (2283370)
3.35 The Morph (f) (a) (1261251)
3.45 Dumbos (Ceefax) (f) (735541) 4.10
The Really Wild Show (Ceefax) (a) (4464348) 5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (7090561) 5.10 Grange Hill (Ceefax) (a) (5522707)

5.35 Neighbours (f) (Ceefax) (a) (572318)
6.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (776)

6.30 Regional News Magazines (588)

7.00 Top of the Pops (Ceefax) (a) (1381)

7.30 EastEnders: Frank can't understand why business is so bad, but David seems unconcerned; rumours are circulating about the new market inspector Carol wears Sam off, and Phil offers some reassurance (Ceefax) (a) (972)

8.00 Alien Empire: Harnesses Skirt, series exploring the world of insects (Ceefax) (a) (7792)

8.30 The Detectives: Comedy with Jasper Carrott and Robert Powell (Ceefax) (a) (5496)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7196)

9.30 Into the Fire: In the second episode of this gripping drama, Frank must face up to the results of his desperate action, while concealing his anguish from Lyn and Anna. *Conduits* tomorrow (Ceefax) (a) (2202356)

10.35 Question Time: The panel includes Brownen Macleod, a reader writer of the *Financial Times*, and MPs John Prescott and Malcolm Bruce. (Ceefax) (345221) NLL: 10.35 Spotlight 11.05 Question Time 12.05am Hunger for Death 12.35-1.15pm Men on Fire

11.35 Hunger for Death: From Dawn until Dusk, Rani Kabbani sets off on the last of her journeys around Britain's Islamic community, meeting Muslims from Glasgow and Birmingham (a) (288554)

11.55 Film: Who? (1974) starring Elliott Gould and Trevor Howard. A top American physicist returns from a car crash in Russia with a metal head and a dubious personality. An FBI agent has the unenviable task of discovering his true identity. Directed by Jack Gold (538344)

1.25 Weather (1709555)

5.40-6.00 Hunger for Death: From Dawn until Dusk (f) (5057177)

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ROWELL TAKEN TO
TASK FOR A
LACK OF VISION

SPORT

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 15 1996

BOB PAISLEY 42

DAVID MILLER'S TRIBUTE
TO BRITISH FOOTBALL'S
GREATEST MANAGER

New Zealand capitalise on mistakes to win opening match in cricket World Cup

Fielding lapses catch up on England

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN AHMEDABAD

AHMEDABAD (England won toss; New Zealand beat England by 11 runs)

THE last cricket World Cup was won by a Pakistan team that began the tournament playing embarrassingly poorly. In the final, they beat England, who had set out as if champions by destiny. It may mean little now, but, after their unscheduled setback in the opening game of the 1996 competition yesterday, it is about all that England can cling to by way of consolation — that, and the pleasant surprise that the Ahmedabad crowd did not stage its customary riot.

Within the terms of this long-winded event, losing is not quite such a dirty word as usual. England will still qualify for the quarter-finals so long as they beat the supposed momekings of Holland and United Arab Emirates. But defeat yesterday was chastening for being inflicted upon an England team that has not improved since sinking into disrepair at the end of the South Africa tour.

The day was alarming, too, for a hamstring injury suffered by Graeme Hick unashamedly England's best player. Though not serious — "a tightness rather than a pull," Raymond Illingworth, the team manager, said — it is a concern, for Hick is one man England cannot cope without.

It is not a disgrace to lose to New Zealand. It may happen to better teams than England. This loss, however, was tantamount to default, such was the generosity of England's field-

ing. All else, including the dubious strategy of bowling first and relying more on seam than spin, pales into insignificance alongside the bungling out-cricket that dictated the result.

Of the four catches that England dropped, much the most costly reprieved Nathan Astle, the New Zealand opener. He had made just one, and was destined to make precisely another 100. But England erred in more ways than the spilling of chances, for their ground fielding was clumsy enough to cost perhaps 20 crucial runs.

Captain and manager were



World Cup diary 41

candid. Michael Atherton said succinctly: "Our fielding was poor, and the dropped catches cost us the match. I don't think you could fault our batting or bowling that much." Illingworth, brow creased with the worries of one whose job is on the line rather more imminent, agreed. "It was the same story in South Africa," he said. "We have worked hard on it since, but when it came to the crunch, we missed our chances again."

Atherton was unrepentant about the decision that contributed to the result. "I think the balance of the side was

right and I think the decision to insert was right," he said. "I was certain in my own mind what we should do, and I would do the same again." Nor for the first time in the aftermath of defeat, Illingworth distanced himself from such matters, saying that he had pointed out the dangers of bowling first, at 9am and with a half wet from the heavy morning dew.

Support for Atherton, however, came from Lee Germon, the New Zealand captain, who confirmed: "We were looking to bowl first, too." It was, then, a toss best lost, for the expectation of early movement for the quicker bowlers came to little, and the pitch passed through the day.

The folk of Ahmedabad,



The injured Hick, who made 85, sets off for the pavilion after Atherton, acting as his runner, had been beaten by Twoose's throw yesterday

TIMES TWO		CROSSWORD	
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redundant England's task, and although Hick played with courage and facility for his 85, support was lacking.

Ironically, Hick fell through no fault of his own, run out by some fine work from Twoose after Atherton and Fairbrother embarked upon a second-wicket stand of 96 in 19 overs, playing with a fluency that may disrupt many a team. Fleming, dropped by Atherton on 25, made three more before top-edging a sweep against Hick to deep backward square. Thorpe took the catch with relief, and the dismissal was repeated, eight overs later, to remove Twoose.

Cairns excited the crowd merely by his entrance and, striking the ball with breath-taking ease, took 36 from 20 balls. New Zealand began the last ten overs on 196 for three. They should have scored 260, might have made even more, but lost the plot completely once Cairns had speared Richard Illingworth to point. Astle's century, his third in 18 one-day internationals, did not totally reassure them, for 240 was an accessible target, if only just.

England needed Atherton to stay for most of their reply, and so he did. All but eight balls, however, were as a runner for the hobbling Hick. A wicked yorker from Nash hit Atherton's leg stump to

D J Nash; G R Lansen and D K Morrison did not bat.
NEW ZEALAND
C M Spearman c and b Cork 5 (20min, 16 balls)
N J Astle c Hick b Martin 101 (17min, 132 balls, 2 sixes, 8 fours)
S P Fleming c Thorpe b Hick 26 (7min, 11 balls, 3 fours)
R G Cairns c Thorpe b Hick 17 (27min, 26 balls, 1 four)
C L Cairns c Cork b Illingworth 36 (34min, 30 balls, 1 six, 4 fours)
C Z Hamzah run out (White/Russell) 10 (23min, 16 balls, 1 four)
S A Stewart c Cork b Nash 17 (27min, 23 balls, 1 four)
K L German not out 13 (18min, 12 balls)
Edwards (5 4, 1 6, w 4, nb 2) 12 Total (8 wickets, 80 overs, 210min) 228
ENGLAND
"M A Atherton b Nash 1 (4min, 3 balls)
A J Stewart c and b Harris 34 (36min, 72 balls, 3 fours)

D A Hobson run out (Twoose/German) 85- (13min, 101 balls, 9 fours)
G P Thorpe b Lansen 9 (24min, 21 balls)
N H Fairbrother b Morrison 36 (30min, 46 balls, 1 four)
H R Cairns c Nash b Morrison 2 (10min, 9 balls)
C White c Cairns b Thomson 13 (18min, 12 balls, 1 four)
D S Cork c German b Nash 18 (21min, 11 balls, 1 six, 2 fours)
D Gough not out 15 (2min, 7 balls)
F J Nash c Cairns b Nash 8 (10min, 7 balls)
R K Illingworth not out 3 (7min, 4 balls)
Extras (1, fo 4, w 1, nb 2) 8 Total (8 wickets, 80 overs, 210min) 228
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1 (Stewart), 2-100 (Hick 81); 3-123 (Hick 76), 4-144 (Fairbrother 11), 5-151 (Fairbrother 18), 6-180 (Fairbrother 32), 7-185 (Cork 11), 8-210 (Gough 13), 9-222 (Gough 12).

BOWLING: Morrison 8-0-88-1 (nb 1, w 1; 4 fours, 4-0-15-0, 4-0-22-1); Nash 9-0-100-2 (nb 1, w 1; 4 fours, 4-0-14-1, 4-0-22-1); Cairns 4-0-94-0 (4 fours, one spell); Lansen 10-1-33-2 (2 fours, 5-1, 13-0, 5-0-14-2); Thomson 10-0-51-1 (six 2 fours, 7-0-32-3, 3-0-19-1); Harris 9-0-46-1 (nb 1; six 1 four, 7-0-29-1, 2-0-16-0); Astle 2-0-6-0 (one spell).
New Zealand won by 11 runs.
Man of the match: N J Astle.
Umpires: B C Cooray (Sri Lanka) and S G Randell (Australia).
Referee: M A K Patada (India).
□ Compiled by Bill Frindell

Modahl goes on the offensive

BY DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

DIANE MODAHL moved from defence to attack yesterday when she launched High Court proceedings against the British Athletic Federation (BAF). She is seeking what her solicitor described as "a substantial six-figure sum" as compensation for losses associated with her suspension from athletics for an alleged drugs offence.

Modahl said that she faced "financial ruin" and that she felt "betrayed" by the BAF, which confirmed her four-year ban for failing a drugs test. Seven months later, a BAF appeals panel overturned the ban. Tony Ward, the federation spokesman, said last night that the BAF would contest the action "vigorously".

Modahl was sent home from the 1994 Commonwealth Games as she was about to defend her 800 metres title, after failing a drugs test conducted in Lisbon ten weeks

earlier. She was banned for four years, a decision confirmed by a BAF disciplinary hearing. The appeals panel freed her to return to competition, though she has yet to race since then.

A statement issued yesterday by Modahl's legal representatives, Mishcon de Reya, said: "She alleges serious breaches of contract by BAF and claims damages in respect of the costs of fighting two sets of proceedings, including her legal and scientific experts' fees, loss of sponsorship and loss of other income. BAF's breaches relate to the suspension, the first disciplinary hearing and then the ban notwithstanding fundamental flaws in the case against her."

No mention was made of a claim for defamation. "This is not a libel writ," Tony Morton-Hooper, her solicitor, said. The BAF declined to settle without going to court.

The federation, by its rules, is not empowered to compensate in the manner that is being suggested, Ward said.

The BAF was presented with a very difficult case of a test carried out abroad. It was duty-bound to act under the rules and regulations of the international federation.

Ward added that, so far, the cost of the case to the federation was "well into six figures".

Although she is training, Modahl has not entered yet for the British Olympic trials in June. "She has been through a lot," Ward said.

Edward Grayson, author of *Sport and the Law* and a barrister specialising in legal issues in sport, said: "So far as I have been able to trace it is the first time in the United Kingdom that British sports administrators have been sued for damages for alleged defective procedures."

□ The last national record of the Finnish distance runner, Paavo Nurmi, fell late on Tuesday, 71 years after it was set. Jukka Tamminen's 2,000 metres time of 5min 20.6sec beat Nurmi's record of 52.25s set on February 13, 1925.

Modahl: seeking damages

Muster suffers a rude awakening

FROM ALIX RAMSAY
IN DUBAI

IT IS hard to think of Thomas Muster, the world No 1 and the player who has salvaged more lost causes than St Jude, as a one-week wonder. However, his newly-acquired position at the top of the tennis world rankings looked in doubt last night after he was beaten 6-3, 7-6, 7-6, by Sandon Stolle in the first round of the Dubai Open.

Stolle, ranked No 16, should not have been in the main draw at all. He got his chance to face the No 1 seed when Petr Korda withdrew with a back injury a few hours before the match. Stolle was drafted in as a lucky loser from the qualifying competition.

Muster arrived in Dubai at the crack of dawn, having travelled overnight from Johannesburg, where Austria had been playing their Davis Cup tie with South Africa, and spent most of the day sleeping off jet lag. Indeed, he looked less than awake as the first set whistled by with Stolle taking control from the outset.

Muster then forced his way back into the match, making Stolle work for every point. As his opponent struggled to recover between increasingly-long rallies, Muster jogged around the baseline looking fighting fit. For a while, the psychology seemed to work but even Muster could not ignore the warning signs from his ailing body.

A break down in the third set, Muster's only chance came from Stolle's sudden attack of nerves. The Australian began to pepper his game with double faults and

missed the shots he had been hitting as winners just moments before. He held his nerve, however, camped out at the net, and won the deciding tie-break 7-0.

Depending on how Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras perform this week, Muster's nine-point lead in the rankings may well have been overtaken when the new lists are published on Monday.

It was not a good day for those who have sampled the delights of being the best in the world. Stefan Edberg, another former No 1, was also booking an early flight home after losing to David Prinz, from Germany, 5-7, 7-6, 6-4. Looking unhappy, Edberg announced that, unless his form improves, he may well cut short his last year on the circuit.

Dubai results, page 40

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3 People 15 Name 18 Onboard 22 Spontane
22 Frame 24 Tight
DOWN
1 Cable 2 Vassars 3 Temp 5 Sponsored 7 Dry ice
11 Astronaut 12 H-bomb 14 Borehole 16 Patch 17 Anousis
19 Uncle 20 Kew

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1st PRIZE of a return ticket, travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network is F. Arden, Redcar, Cleveland.
2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic network is B. V. Baxter, Peterswood, Kent.
All flights subject to availability.

The pleasures and occasional perils of Moscow's 100-year-old bath house

MOSCOWITES turned out in force yesterday to pay their respects to one of the city's most venerable institutions, where for 100 years citizens have been drawn in search of a particularly Russian blend of pain and pleasure.

The Sandunovsky Baths, Russia's most famous bath house, was mobbed by hundreds of enthusiasts after it threw open its ornate doors and allowed customers in free to celebrate its centenary.

Sandunovsky, an elegant pre-Revolution building, is one of Moscow's most beloved landmarks, where for generations Bolshevik artists, mobsters and humble factory workers have sweated out hangovers, exchanged jokes and escaped the dirt and strain of

Richard Beeston tests the waters at Russia's most famous bath house, where Muscovites go to escape the dirt and strain of city life

city life. One of its earliest customers was Chekhov, while Eisenstein filmed some of the naval sequences for his film the *Battleship Potemkin* on the water of its neo-classical swimming pool. More recently the final shooting scene of the Cold War thriller, *Gorky Park*, was set in Sandunovsky's ornate men's changing room.

Banya (bath house) enthusiasts, recognisable by the felt hats they

insist on wearing inside the sauna bath, enforce a strict routine of blistering hot sessions in the sauna, combined with birch beatings and followed by a dip in an icy plunge pool. The relief only comes at the end of the session with a traditional hearty meal accompanied by vodka and beer.

Although for centuries the banya was simply a way of keeping clean in a country with no hot running

water, today it has taken on mystical qualities, a point reinforced by Sandunovsky's elaborate neo-Gothic architecture.

Apart from the physical experience, Khamit Alyev, the banya's director, said that his baths provided a unique social service for Muscovites tired of nagging spouses, impious bosses and a rigid hierarchy. "When you come in here, take your clothes off and enter the banya you will find that everyone is equal," Mr Alyev said. "It is physically and spiritually cleansing."

In a typical banya session recently I encountered a distinguished impresto, a Korean businessman, a heavily tanned gangster from the Baltics and a retired

engineer all amiably swapping stories.

"It is easy to relax and make friends in the banya," said Vergeni, after completing a rejuvenating two-hour session in the steam bath and plunge pool. "When everybody is naked and beating themselves with birch branches there is no room for snobbery. We are all just as we were at birth."

Russian banya enthusiasts have been known to improve bath houses in the most unlikely locations. Officers serving in remote mountain regions of Tajikistan and Chechnya frequently build their own banyas on base.

One such banya has even been

rigged up on the orbiting space station Mir for cosmonauts. But

excessive visits to the banya can also be dangerous. President Yeltsin, an avid banya fan, is alleged to have decided to launch his ill-fated invasion of the breakaway republic of Chechnya after a particularly drunken session with his closest advisers at a private sauna.

Anatran Kvantrishvili, Moscow's former mafia godfather, paid for his life because of his obsession with banyas. Although well protected, he made the mistake of visiting a Moscow bath house at the same time each week, which gave a hit man the perfect opportunity to pick him off as he emerged on to the street.

"The banya is a great tradition," said Gleb Uspensky, a publishing

director and avid banya-goer. "But too much of a good thing can be bad for you."

□ Duma club: A State Duma committee last night voted in favour of installing a health club in parliament. Deputies have already voted for other benefits for themselves, such as free flats in Moscow and country homes in the suburbs.

The parliamentary health club will include a physical fitness centre and offices for a dentist and other medics. Tass reported. It did not say how much the club would cost or whether it would need the approval of the entire Duma. The lower house is dominated by Communists and nationalists who advocate populist measures to benefit the working people. (AP)

Bosnian Muslims to face charges over war crimes

BY MICHAEL BINNIN, EVE-ANN PRENTICE AND STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

THE war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia is about to indict the first Bosnian Muslims for suspected war crimes.

The announcement yesterday by Richard Goldstone, the tribunal's chief prosecutor, comes after the transfer to The Hague of two Serb officers, arrested by the Bosnian Government and now held pending charges.

Mr Justice Goldstone said the investigation into war crimes committed by Bosnian Muslim forces was nearly complete. He expected that indictments would be submitted to a judge for confirmation "in the coming weeks".

A spokesman for the tribunal refused to disclose where the suspected Muslims were from, but sources close to the Muslim-led Bosnian Government suggested that they included, at least, one from Srebrenica — paradoxically where the Bosnian Serbs are accused of filling mass graves with Muslim victims — and others from central Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mr Justice Goldstone's announcement refutes claims by the Bosnian Serbs that the tribunal is biased against them. Only seven of more than 50 people so far indicted are not Serbs. The recent deten-

sion of Serb soldiers has caused uproar among the Bosnian Serbs, who have broken off all contact with Nato forces in Bosnia.

Richard Holbrooke, the American negotiator, assured the Serbs this week that any future arrests would have to be sanctioned from The Hague in advance. But Mr Justice Goldstone said yesterday that the two Bosnian Serb officers who had been taken to The Hague were suspected of "serious violations" of international humanitarian law.

Mr Holbrooke, who briefed Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday, insisted in London yesterday that America would be unfriendly on the issue of war crimes. He said the issue had been non-negotiable from the start of the three-week talks in Dayton. All parties had signed their acceptance of the conditions and agreed, in front of witnesses, that war crimes trials should go ahead.

He said there was no difference between British and American positions on the details. Public pressure to pursue the matter vigorously was strong in European Austria. He also denied that Nato was staying away from the arrest of Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader. He

said more than 70 per cent of the Bosnian Serbs would be delighted if Dr Karadzic were removed.

He gave a warning, however, that there was strong public opposition in America to "mission creep" — extending by stealth the mandate for the Nato forces to include the hunting down of war crimes suspects. Public opinion had been shocked by the killing of American soldiers in Mogadishu and would not countenance any pursuit of war crimes suspects similar to the hunt for General Aideed.

Mr Holbrooke, who retires next week, denied that the Dayton accord would unravel when he left.

On speculation that he would be asked by President Clinton to return as Secretary of State in a second Clinton term, he said he had done all the jobs he wanted in his 19 years in government.

He gave a strong warning, however, that the situation in Mostar was extremely serious and could cause the collapse of the Croat-Muslim federation. He had warned President Tudjman that he must restrain Croat separation in the city. America gave full backing to Hans Koenig, the European Union-appointed administrator of the city.

The FIS general secretary said: "It was a complete idiocy on the part of one of our officials." Lebedeva, 22, and Harald Schoenhaar, 22, suffered broken legs during training for the Alpine skiing world championships in Sierra Nevada, Spain. Lebedeva, 22, caught his left leg with her right ski. (Reuters)

Tatiana Lebedeva, above, is helped after colliding with Harald Schoenhaar, below. Both suffered broken legs

'Idiocy' causes ski crash

THE International Ski Federation (FIS) yesterday accepted responsibility for a collision between Tatiana Lebedeva, a Russian down-hillier, and one of its race officials.

"There is absolutely no excuse for what happened today," FIS takes full responsibility," Gianfranco Kasper,



Eta kills Spanish 'champion of liberty'

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

ONE OF Spain's most respected judges was assassinated yesterday in Madrid by the Basque separatists waging a campaign of violence since a general election was called for March 3.

Francisco Tomás y Valiente, 63, who was president of Spain's constitutional court from 1986 to 1992 before becoming a law professor at Madrid's Autonomous University, was shot dead in his office minutes before he was to give a lecture to his students.

Police said the judge was shot three times, and the 9mm Parabellum ammunition used was trademark bullet of the Basque organisation Eta. The gunman escaped after threatening students and professors with his weapon as he ran to a getaway car.

Just over a week ago, Eta terrorists shot dead a leading member of the Socialist Party in the Basque region.

Felipe Gonzalez, the Prime Minister and Socialist Party leader, said he was "profoundly upset" by the murder.

Pascual Salas, president of the national court, said if Eta had wanted to kill a champion of democracy, and liberty, they "had selected a good candidate".

The centre-right Popular Party is expected to win the general election after 13 years of Socialist rule.

Four die on eve of elections in Dhaka

FROM REUTERS IN DHAKA

FOUR people were killed in bomb blasts and more than 150 wounded as political violence flared across Bangladesh yesterday, the eve of general elections.

Clashes erupted as opposition parties boycotted the poll, enforced a 48-hour country-wide strike to disrupt the vote. Today's election is a test of strength between two charismatic women, Begum Khalida Zia, the Prime Minister, and Sheikh Hasina Wajed, the leader of the Awami League.

In Chittagong, witnesses said two people, one believed to be an opposition activist, were killed and almost 30 wounded in sporadic bomb blasts as security forces and opponents of the poll clashed. Two pro-Government activists were killed in Khalishpur, near Khulna, when they were attacked with bombs.

At least 50 people, including five security men, were wounded in battles sparked by opposition attempts to burn the election office in the northern town of Pabna, where anti-poll militants snatched ballot boxes. Activists also hurled bombs at army convoys in Pabna and Chittagong. It was not known if anyone was hurt.

Other protesters set fire to nine polling stations in Chittagong and snatched nearly 200 ballot boxes in the northern town of Tangail, officials said. In other incidents around the country election officials were reported to have been abducted or wounded and lorries carrying material to polling stations were also attacked.

So far this month 19 people have been killed in political violence and 600 wounded.

Kohl 'will not stand' if he loses EMU backing

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL is reported to have put his future on the line to save the European monetary union project.

The German leader, according to well-informed sources, warned members of the Christian Democratic parliamentary group, and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union, that he will stand for re-election in 1998 only if he is given full party backing on the single currency. The point is to bring dissidents into line and end talk of shelving EMU.

The Chancellor could not have made a more potent threat; the party is particularly restless at the moment. Although the latest opinion polls indicate that the governing coalition of Christian Democrats and Free Democrats would be returned to power if the election were held today, there is still uncertainty over the future of the small, sickly Free Democrats.

Without Herr Kohl, the Christian Democrats would be in poor shape. Yesterday the Alvensleben polling institute gave the Christian Democrats and the CSU 37.5 per cent (compared to 41.5 per cent in the 1994 general election) and the Free Democrats 6.7

agers appear to be warming to the single currency, although they have doubts about the 1999 start date. The Alvensleben institute found that 77 per cent of business and political decision-makers support the euro, compared to 61 per cent last June.

While the public continue to discuss heatedly the plans for EMU, there is growing assent among the economic, political and administrative leadership, the institute said.

However, a majority — 52 per cent — are sure that EMU will not begin on time.

A more differentiated view emerged yesterday, however, from Hans-Otto Henkel, head of the Confederation of German Industry, who urged the Government to carry out a comprehensive study of the economic risks of monetary union.

There was a real chance, he said, that the attempt to meet the convergence criteria could plunge aspiring members of the monetary union into recession.

"We are not even sure if one or the other candidates will fail to meet an important convergence criterion" by its very efforts to enforce financial discipline, he said.

Kohl's powerful threat to an uneasy party

on said afterwards that the computer played "at a level of some of the best players in the world". Deep Blue repeated its Sicilian defence opening gambit of game one, a surprising tactic because one might have expected a machine to select an untried option.

When the offer of a draw was made, Deep Blue's programmers had to intervene because the computer is unable to take the tactical decision to accept. "Conciliation is not really part of the computer's program," an IBM official said. Man can see advantages in a draw if he lets its own devices, the soulless computer would have played on until a bloodier conclusion had been reached.

The draw left the "players" with 1½ points each, half way through the \$500,000 (£327,000) match in Philadelphia. The game saw Deep Blue, playing white, trying to tempt Mr Kasparov with pawn sacrifices. The grandmaster resisted the lure.

Computer buffs viewing the match on Internet suffered a setback when demand for the

site exceeded expectations: with five million "hits" a day, the computers could not cope; two supercomputers have been fitted.

A new, human face of Deep Blue was featured when Murray Campbell, one of the five programmers, sat across the board from Mr Kasparov to move the pieces. In the first two matches that job fell to Dr Feng-hsiung Hsu. Two others of the team, Joseph Hoane and Gershon Brody, will play in the final game, but C.J. Tan, the team's modest leader, has declined to be in the line-up.

Game four began last night and today is a rest day. The last two games will be played tomorrow and on Saturday.

Such was the verve of Deep Blue's game that the champion

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Rome crisis throws EU presidency into turmoil

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALY was plunged into a fresh political crisis yesterday, with a disruptive election campaign looking increasingly likely only weeks before the special European Union summit in Turin which Italy is due to chair.

Antonio Maccanico, the senior bureaucrat and former banker asked by President Scalfaro to form a government two weeks ago, announced "with the deepest regret" that he had been unable to persuade the leaders of Left and Right to join in a grand coalition to complete Italy's reform process.

"Mounting political obstacles made the formation of a government of national unity impossible," Signor Maccanico said after meeting the President at the Quirinal Palace. "Our country has lost a great and extraordinary opportunity and remains immersed in a grave political and institutional crisis."

Leaders of Left and Right blamed each other for the breakdown, which leaves the country adrift. The lira, which had risen on Signor Maccanico's appointment, fell sharply, as did prices on the Milan stock exchange. European diplomats expressed dismay, noting that Italy holds the EU presidency until the end of June. Continuing political chaos is paralysing EU policy at a critical time; the Turin summit at the end of next month is to open the intergovernmental conference revising the Maastricht treaty.

Elections were the one option President Scalfaro had sought to avoid. He could ask someone else to form a government and explore the idea of a constituent assembly, but he is running out of candidates and is more likely to ask Signor Dini, as caretaker Prime Minister, to go before parliament on whether the country should go the polls. Many MPs said yesterday there was no alternative. The election would be held in April.



The room in Paris where Proust wrote *A la recherche du temps perdu*, with his picture on one wall, has been opened to the public.

Door opens on Proust's writing sanctuary

THE cork-lined room where Marcel Proust wrote *A la recherche du temps perdu* has been restored in homage to the reclusive writer who craved absolute tranquillity amid the noise of Paris.

The second-floor apartment at 102, Boulevard Haussmann, where Proust lived and worked between 1907 and 1919, was no humble writer's garret but a sumptuous bourgeois spread with high ceilings, marble columns and elaborate mouldings. Now owned by a French bank, the apartment has been restored to its earlier grandeur, while Proust's favourite room has returned to its former, sepulchral silence.

This week it was opened to the public by appointment and in the summer thousands of literary tourists are expected to visit the latest addition to the Proust pilgrimage trail, which already includes the house where he was born in the suburb of Auteuil, the Ritz hotel where he often entered

Marcel Proust
(1871-1922)
Inauguré cet hiver
le 10/07/95

Ben Macintyre visits
*the cork-lined room in a
Parisian apartment
building, marked with a
plaque, where Marcel
Proust guarded his peace
to write at night*

tained and the building where he died in 1922 on the Rue Hamelin. Proust insisted that the walls of the room where he slept and wrote should be lined with thick panels of cork — an idea he got from the Henry Bernstein, the dramatist — while the windows were muffled by heavy curtains to keep out the distracting noise of the boulevard below. The writer worked mostly at night and the sound of the daytime bustle, when he was trying to sleep, drove him to distraction.

"He was very sensitive to noise," Nicole Leher, an official of the SNVB bank, said yesterday as she opened the door to a room in which the traffic outside was reduced to a murmur. When a neighbour was having construction work done, Proust offered to pay the builders to work at night so he could sleep in the day, apparently forgetting that his neighbours kept more conventional hours.

The sombre silence favoured by the writer was not to everyone's taste. Proust's servant, Célestine Albarat, recalled that when she walked into the room for the first time, it was like entering one of the deep caves she remembered from her youth in the Lozère region. The apartment, bequeathed to Proust's aunt and he chose to live there for the macabre reason that he had seen his great uncle die in the

room he selected as his writing chamber.

In contrast to Proust's day, when the room had no paintings to divert his thoughts, a vast photograph of the writer now gazes down from a wall. Comfortably off after the death of his parents but convinced he was on the edge of bankruptcy, Proust was part hermit, part socialite. He often wrote in bed, the room dense with vapours from powders he brewed up for his chronic asthma.

He installed one of the first telephones in Paris, principally in order to listen to the opera which was piped directly and at great expense from the Comédie Française via the "théâtrephone". His reclusive existence on the Boulevard Haussmann, often as a near-invalid, was punctuated by bouts of sometimes frenetic socialising amid the Parisian upper classes. In 1917 Proust complained that he had been to so many "simple" dinner parties at the Ritz and had

consumed so much champagne, that he felt overstrained, "cardiacally and pulmonary".

Du côté circ. de chez Swann, the first volume of *A la recherche du temps perdu* (Remembrance of things past) was turned down by André Gide at Gallimard publishers and was finally published in 1913; at Proust's insistence Gide later admitted to Proust that his decision had been the "gravest mistake ever made".

When his aunt sold the building on the Boulevard Haussmann, in 1919 to the bank that still owns it, Proust said he would have done anything to keep his apartment had he been informed of the sale earlier. That year Proust won the Goncourt Prize and belated recognition. Sensing that death was not far off, he immersed himself in a final burst of writing. Three years after leaving his cork-lined sanctum, he was dead.

Leading article, page 19

Ancient Dead Sea curse defied

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

IN DEFiance of a curse written in Aramaic, the language spoken by Jesus, archaeologists have uncovered an ancient Jewish village on the edge of the Dead Sea which contains the lost secrets of the prized balsam oil used to anoint the kings of Judah and other monarchs in the ancient world.

Ziv Harshfeld, of Jerusalem's Hebrew University, disclosed yesterday that the ruins of a fortress-style factory used to process and guard the precious liquid had been uncovered high on rocky slopes overlooking the Dead Sea oasis of En-gedi.

"Nothing like it has been found anywhere in the countries of the ancient world," he said. His team had spent the winter excavating the long-buried village, which was abandoned after a fire in the 6th century AD, and the factory, whose entrance was sealed with a stone that was still in place when the experts arrived.

The discoverers explain the meaning of a curse inscribed in the mosaic floor of a magnificent synagogue discovered in the area 25 years ago: "Cursed be he who reveals the secret of the village to the Gentiles." It said in what is now seen as a reference to the formula for producing the oil.

The balm produced at En-gedi from as early as the 6th century BC, was regarded as the finest in the ancient world, according to accounts by the Roman historian Flavius Josephus and Talmudic writers.

Mr Harshfeld hopes that samples scraped from the vats inside the newly discovered factory will at last yield the secret. The balm was made from a species of perennial tree found only along the shores of the Dead Sea, the lowest spot on earth, and in Jericho near by. The tree, he said, believed to have been grown on terraces around the village, became extinct in the 6th century AD when the secret of how to produce its precious oil was lost.

Mr Harshfeld said that the Jews of En-gedi guarded the details of their manufacturing process closely because the wealth of the estimated 1200 villagers depended on the superiority of their balm.

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Legal row over Anne Frank marketing

By ROGER SOVIE

ANNE FRANK, the Jewish girl who chronicled the Holocaust through the eyes of a child, is at the centre of a bitter legal dispute between Dutch and Swiss foundations.

For decades, the Anne Frank Foundation in Amsterdam and the Anne Frank Fund in Basel have acted together to prevent her name being exploited for commercial reasons.

The Amsterdam foundation runs the museum where Frank and her family hid for much of the war. Her Diary records the fugitive family's daily life.

The Basel fund, established by her father, Otto, the only member of the immediate family to have survived, owns the copyright of the girl's diaries, collects the royalties (25 million copies have been sold) and uses the interest to fund educational work on the Holocaust, stage exhibitions and help to maintain the Yad Vashem memorial in Israel.

About 600,000 visitors a year go to the house where the girl hid and now the museum wants to expand, at a cost of £7 million. The Swiss fund has offered about £200,000.

To help to raise more money for the museum, the Amsterdam foundation has been trying to make more use of the Anne Frank name. The Swiss fund, feeling that the world could be swamped with Anne Frank T-shirts or coffee mugs, is determined that it should maintain exclusive rights. The issue is to be resolved by Swiss judges.



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Cream, foundation and mascara in your make-up bag could be a health hazard

Gone are the days when women lined their eyes with lead and thus poisoned their bodies; but the stuff of modern beauty is still fraught with health and hygiene hazards.

Musty old make-up and moisturisers lurking in the bottom of our cosmetic bags can harbour bacteria that have been absorbed from our hands or the air. If the bacteria get into broken or vulnerable skin, facial infections and rashes can develop.

Bacteria do not breed in non-aqueous conditions, so powdery substances such as blusher are unlikely to become infected, but water-based substances like creams, foundations and mascaras are susceptible to contamination.

Dr Andrew Griffith, consultant dermatologist at St John's Institute of Dermatology at St Thomas' Hospital, says that contamination generally occurs not within the cosmetic pot but when human hands infect the product. Through careless hygiene, the organisms that inhabit everyday life end up on your hands and can be transferred to, for example, your moisturiser.

"You may have washed the dishes, stroked the dog, put your paws away or used the remote

The best advice is don't share any of your make-up with a friend and don't use any creams on broken or infected skin."

control before you put your moisturiser on," he says. "Once a tube or pot is opened you can transfer these germs from the tips of your finger to the top of the tube or into the tub. Then it is no longer sterile, and there is a risk of the germs being multiplied."

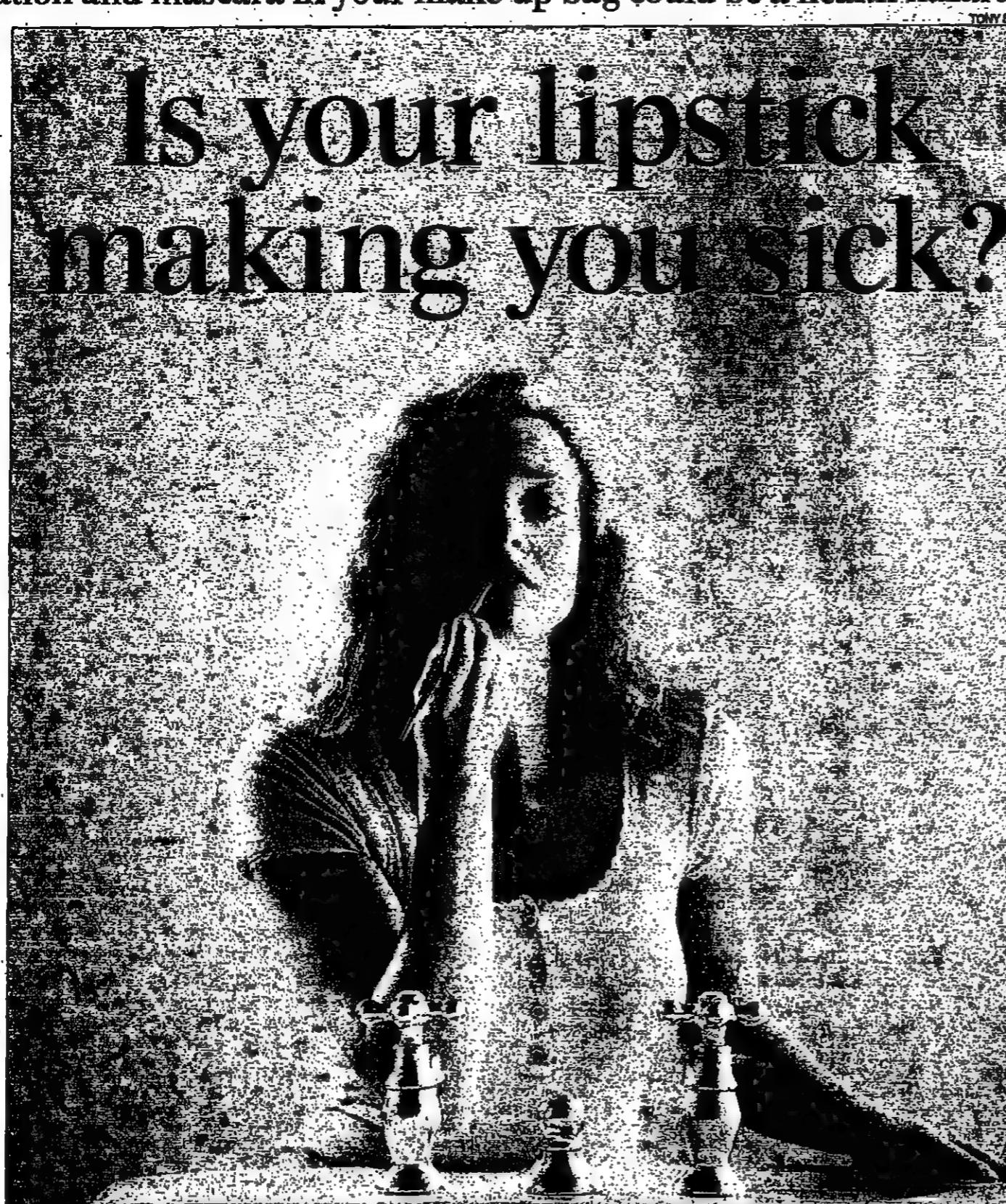
The process is circular. "If you have rubbed a septic spot with your fingers and then placed your fingers back into the pot you can transmit it back on to your face or skin, leading to infection," Dr Griffith says. "People who suffer from eczema or cracked skin are especially vulnerable." The main bacterial culprits are *Pseudomonas*, *E. coli* and *Proteus*, which often grow in enclosed passages where there is little oxygen — between the toes or in the nasal passages. These can be transferred by careless hygiene into an open wound, where they prevent the wound from healing or lead to ulceration and septic spots.

Tubes left open without their lids can also absorb bacteria from the air, leading to contamination.

To counteract these problems, most cosmetic companies use a mixture of low-allergy preservative chemicals and natural preparations such as lactic acid, which has antiseptic qualities to help to protect the product. Some contain formaldehyde, also a preservative.

Unfortunately, however, some people find they are allergic to the very ingredients meant to combat contamination.

Michael Finnerty, head of cosmetics at Boots, says a very small



Hands that do dishes and then put on make-up or moisturisers can transmit a variety of bacteria, causing infections and rashes

minority of people are affected by preservatives. "Preservatives are designed to kill organisms, which means they can potentially be irritant to all living things," he says. "But they are usually present at a very low level and we try to choose the most non-toxic ingredients."

A spokesman for the Body Shop Colours range says that a very low level of preservatives is added during production, which does not affect performance.

Under an EC directive effective from January 1 next year, all cosmetics companies will be required to list ingredients, including preservatives, on the packaging.

Cosmetics are subjected to rigorous testing by microbiologists in the lab. Some cosmetic products, such as those from L'Oréal and Lancôme, are also subjected to two months of rigorous challenge test-

ing", in which various micro-bacteria are introduced to samples. "We are always touching other people's organisms but most of them are harmless — what we're trying to do is prevent them from colonising the product," Mr Finnerty says.

The products are initially sterile as they are made up under extremely hygienic conditions, so there is unlikely to be any build-up of contamination before they are opened; after they are opened, products can be protected but cannot disinfect themselves."

The good news is that a little common-sense keeps most potential infections at bay. "Cosmetics are very 'personal,'" says Mr Finnerty. "Don't share any of your make-up with a friend and don't

use creams on broken or infected skin. If a piece of chocolate falls on the ground you wouldn't pick it up and eat it, so why treat your cosmetics any differently?"

Brushes should be washed after use and container lids should be kept tightly shut. Other precautions include using pump dispensers or sprays for moisturisers and foundations. Some cosmetic experts recommend using a spatula to scoop cream from the pot, so that your hand does not come into contact with it.

Dermatologists and cosmetic companies alike advise throwing out products that have been sitting on your shelves for a suspiciously long time. "As a general rule our products have a shelf life of three years, but that is different from usage life," a Colours spokesman says. "Unopened mas-

cara can have a shelf life of three years, but once it is opened and exposed to the air it lasts around a year before it ought to be thrown out." Under the new EC directive, any product that will deteriorate in less than 30 months must carry its date of manufacture on the label.

"Any cosmetics, from lipsticks to foundations, if kept for any length of time, are likely to spoil or deteriorate. This does not necessarily mean that they're dangerous — most of them probably just don't function as well any more — but it's best to not take any risks," Mr Finnerty says.

"It's a bit like getting a vertebra from a swimming pool," Dr Griffith adds. "You don't see the germs that put it there but that doesn't make it any less unpleasant."

KATHRYN KNIGHT

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When reading is a race with time

BY TEATIME today, hundreds of politicians, journalists and civil servants will be attempting an instant course in speed reading. But the 1,800-page Scott report on the arms-to-Iraq affair will test even the most seasoned expert when it is made public after Prime Minister's Questions at 3.30pm.

The technique of speed reading was invented in the 1930s

by Evelyn Wood,

an American educator.

Ms Wood found that her students in Salt Lake City

achieved better results if they were able to read faster than average.

She taught them to achieve

rates of 1,000 words a minute — the equivalent of polishing off *Dr Zhivago* in an hour.

Her heyday was in the

1960s, when President Kennedy sent dozens of his White House staff on courses in Washington.

It was a tradition followed by President Carter, who took pride in his rapid reading.

The most successful exponents of Ms Wood's classes

claimed to be able to finish

George Orwell's *Animal*

Farm in 25 minutes. But even

her most brilliant students

could not match the panache

of George Bernard Shaw; his

party trick was to read the left

and right hand pages of a

book simultaneously — and

then take questions.

Any cosmetics, from lipsticks to

foundations, if kept for any length

of time, are likely to spoil or

deteriorate. This does not necessarily

mean that they're dangerous —

most of them probably just don't

function as well any more — but it's

best to not take any risks," Mr

Finnerty says.

It's a bit like getting a vertebra

from a swimming pool," Dr

Griffith adds. "You don't see the

germs that put it there but that doesn't

make it any less unpleasant."

KATHRYN KNIGHT

Woman's choice

New light on the effect of hysterectomy

FOR many women a hysterectomy is life-saving, and those who have regular heavy bleeding caused by uterine disease will find their life is revolutionised by one. But for many others there is no obvious cause for heavy periods — such patients are described as having dysfunctional uterine bleeding and their treatment is not so clear-cut. In the past, hysterectomy was undertaken rather more readily if the patient with heavy bleeding was rich. The situation is now different.

A woman who has had no further education is 12 times more likely to have a hysterectomy than is a graduate. It may be that less well-educated women tend to have had larger families and therefore bulkier uterus, which bleed more profusely. Also, it is possible that any anaemia is less easily counteracted when menses is in short supply.

There is no doubt that dysfunctional uterine bleeding is debilitating, inconvenient and often needs surgical intervention.

There is, however, vehement argument as to whether the women would have been more cheerful if they had kept their womb and instead of a hysterectomy had undergone uterine ablation — the removal of the lining of the uterus by laser or cautery.

Many of the answers to questions about the merits of hysterectomy and uterine ablation have now been answered by a research project carried out by psychiatrists, gynaecologists and statisticians at Aberdeen University.

The researchers, who have reported their findings in the *British Medical Journal*, allocated 204 women who needed surgery into three groups at random. A third had a hysterectomy, a third laser treatment, and a third had surgical removal of their uterine lining but the uterus was left intact.

The patients did well and after any of the three procedures were equally likely to feel less depressed and anxious. After a year, there was no difference in the three groups in the incidence of marital disharmony, psychosomatic problems or psychiatric disease.

Very importantly, and contrary to the commonly held belief, hysterectomy was unrelated to psychiatric illness and the patients' marriages were unaffected.

Some 27 per cent noticed an increased sexual interest, 25 per cent reported a loss of sexual drive and in the others the libido was unaltered.

There are, of course, physical advantages in some cases in having endometrial ablation.

than being barefoot, whereas running shoes took a third of the pressure off the foot. In the author's opinion this difference could help to prevent the formation of diabetic ulcers, which are always difficult to heal on patients' feet.

In the clear
 MPs can be assured that however much Sir Richard Scott's revelations may damage their reputations, their health is safe from the water supply.

A study reported in the *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery* and *Pulse* magazine has compared the pressure to which feet are subjected when a patient wears no shoes, trainer-type running shoes, or leather-soled walking shoes.

If the foot is healthy, leather-soled shoes may well be best. But if the patient is diabetic with poor circulation and a diseased nerve supply, the differences in the amount of pressure experienced may be important.

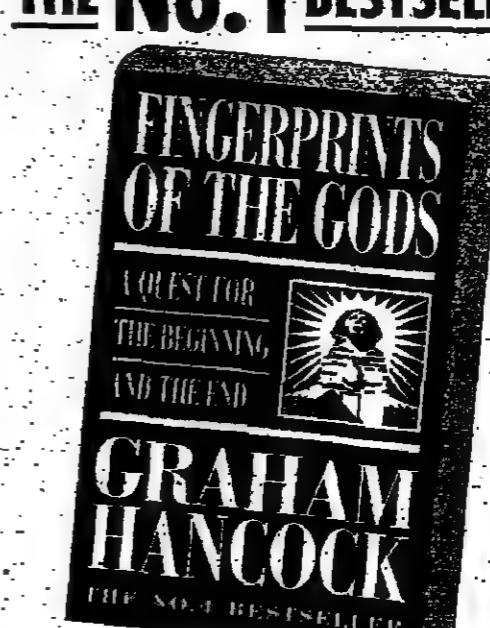
Leather-soled shoes provided no more relief from pressure,

judges — fears that quality declines with speed reading. "The judges begin their work in February and have six months to read 140 books," he says.

By June they are reading fast, and by July they are going at an even faster rate.

EMMA WILKINS

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The problem with being the fifth richest woman in the world

Nina Wang talks to Quentin Letts about ransom demands, discos and her grand project

THE WOMAN who wants to build the tallest skyscraper in the world is short. In her flat shoes, Nina Wang stands little more than five feet tall.

It is one of many contradictions. She is reputedly the fifth richest woman in the world, but was spotted the other day queuing for theatre seats at a cut-price Manhattan ticket bureau. Her husband was probably murdered six years ago, yet she refuses to talk of him in the past tense. She is said to be a recluse, yet there could not be a more expansive talker once she had decided to grant a rare interview.

Nina Wang was born in Shanghai, 60-odd years ago, and moved to Hong Kong before Chairman Mao's Cultural Revolution. She did not see her family for nine years. In Hong Kong she married Teddy Wang Teh-huei, the son of a hotel developer, and they were happy and successful. There were no children, but life was good and Mr Wang's property company, Chinachem, prospered. When he was kidnapped in 1983, Mrs Wang did not hesitate before paying \$11 million (£7.5 million) to free him.

Second time round it went wrong. One morning six years ago Teddy Wang kissed his pretty, witty goodbyes as he left for work. He closed the door of their home in Victoria Peak and, though he would not know it until a few violent minutes later, he had walked out of her life, probably for ever. On that journey to work he was kidnapped by an armed gang and a ransom of \$60 million was demanded. Mrs Wang paid about half of what was asked, but he has not been seen since.

Word has it that the kidnappers bungled things, and while being chased by the Hong Kong navy, dumped his boat in the harbour. It has never been found. For Mrs Wang there was the waiting, the hideous uncertainty, and then the growing acceptance — by other people, at least — that he had been killed.

Her business card says proudly "Chairlady, China-



Nina Wang: "People ask me why I want to build Nina Tower, and I say because I want to. I thought of naming it after my husband, but it would look like a monument"

chem". After months of misery, of missing Teddy so badly that her tiny frame could scarcely bear any more grief, Mrs Wang picked herself up and took control of the business. In macho South-East Asia this was no mean feat.

For Mrs Wang, with her trademark pig-tails and her outwardly gentle mien, it seemed an impossible ambition. She has done it, though, and Chinachem, a private company of which she owns 90 per cent, has diversified and grown. There are biotechnology companies in California; factories in China, and property — lots of it — in Hong Kong. The value of Chinachem is not disclosed, but it is estimated to be \$3 billion.

In Manhattan last week to do some business and admire the skyline, she was staying at a modest, mid-market hotel. Her room was a boxy little affair whose only merit was a view of the Chrysler building. William Van Allen's Art Deco masterpiece. It is the sleekest of New York's skyscrapers.

and Mrs Wang wants the same sort of luck for her grand project, the Nina Tower.

The tower, which at around 470 metres would be the tallest in the world, has become Mrs Wang's consuming interest. It will be near Hong Kong's new airport, will have 2.3 million sq ft of office space and will,

she says, be a monument to the post-British future of Hong Kong. With potential planning snags, it may not be completed until the start of the next century, and will probably cost as much as \$1 billion. Mrs Wang, who has a Chinese aversion to debt, intends to pay cash.

"I chose the name," she said, as she picked up the telephone to order herself a glass of warm milk. "Isn't it great?" She hit on the idea about three years ago, after securing a site on the Tsuen Wan waterfront. "I thought, why not make a new landmark?" When Mrs Wang announced the plan to the board of Chinachem, the directors — mostly men — sat in dumb astonishment before recommending against the tower. Mrs Wang waved aside

their fears. She was determined to be the woman who built the tallest building in the world. "They asked me why? I said because I want to." And that was that.

Being a woman in business in Hong Kong might seem a difficult position, but Mrs Wang has found advantages in her gender. The men are disarmed, although she was cross, recently, when some of

the colony's top tycoons — all men — gathered to discuss life post-1997. "They didn't even ask me," she said.

The prospect of Chinese rule does not faze her. "They have said, they will let the Hong Kong people rule Hong Kong after 1997, and I think that is good."

People have advised her to quit while she can and take her money to the West, per-

haps joining her doctor sister in Michigan, but, having helped to build around 400 buildings in Hong Kong, she cannot give up its crowded streets. It's fun, after all, to be able to look up every now and again at a skyscraper and say: "There's one of mine."

Mrs Wang picked up the threads of running Chinachem quickly, as she and her husband had often talked about the business. He encouraged her to become involved. "One day he asked me to join the company and I said only if I can bring the dog," she recalled. He agreed. Today her German shepherd dog, Wei Wei, accompanies her wherever she goes in Hong Kong, including the most high-powered meetings. She loves dogs, and has had a dalmatian and a dachshund.

There was trouble with an earlier dog, which was given to her by the police department and which had been trained as a guard dog. It would growl if anyone got too close to her, or even if they passed an invisible line in front of her desk.

For years Mrs Wang herself growled at the media. She preferred to keep a low profile, conducting her business behind closed doors and gaining a reputation as a recluse. Not now. "Now I can't keep quiet," she said. "Do you dance?" She loves discotheques, and wears trendy clothes. "I've got great legs, that's why I often wear mini-skirts." The hairstyle is for convenience. "I can't stand beauty parlours. It is easier like this."

Her husband, she said with a melancholy smile, would probably think that the Nina Tower was extravagant. "He would say it was a waste of money." She did think of naming it after him, but decided not to. "It would have looked like a monument." She refuses to talk of Mr Wang as "my late husband" or to refer to him in the past tense. She still hopes, prays, that he is alive. "He is very quiet and likes riding and squash," she said, desperate to sound upbeat.

Then, a little more reflectively: "I sometimes get a little lonely. The first two years were hard. I felt terrible and didn't want to do anything. Then I said to myself: 'I can't go on like this'."

If the 108-storey Nina Tower is built, it will not only be a remarkable engineering achievement — twice as tall as Canary Wharf — but will also stand as a testament to the motivating powers of bereavement and the astonishing drive of a widow. It is another contradiction — grief may have been her making.

Giles Coren on the lost art of betrothal

That engaged signal

As another Valentine's Day passes in a whirl of drooping roses, emerald cards and heart-shaped chocolate boxes, the love industry, which would normally be anticipating its annual rest, has been given a boost.

Rumours of the impending engagement of Prince Edward to Sophie Rhys-Jones may do for engagements what Charles and Diana did for weddings in 1982, and revive a flagging tradition.

For the ritual has recently fallen prey to a change in the way we get married. When church ceremonies were de rigueur, a long wait between the betrothal and the nuptial celebrations was inevitable, because if you wanted to get married on a Saturday in spring, the waiting list would stretch to months.

But since the rise of register office marriages the fashion has been for rudely urgent, tokenistic affairs: pop the question, tell your mates, hop on the bus down to the register office, pick up the licence, and off to the pub. Michael Jackson and Lisa-Marie, and Richard Gere and Cindy Crawford, did that. And look what people said about them.

In royal circles, or even high society, things are unlikely to come to such a pass. Claus von Bulow's 23-year-old daughter, Cosima, recently became engaged to City banker Riccardo Pavoncello — and insists there is nothing old-fashioned about the decision.

"In the old days you used to have a long engagement so that you could get to know each other," she says. "Well, that's not necessary any more. But all my friends have been getting engaged. It is simply a case of organisation. If you

are working you need a minimum of six months to organise the wedding; the usual period is anything up to a year."

But if the planning required for a society wedding has kept the tradition going among the polka fraternity, the English, in general, have lost the knack.

In 1987 De Beers revealed that Engishmen are the

ing for avoiding tax, on the other hand, engagement was popular in the 1970s, when planning was needed to ensure weddings fell in April or September to take advantage of allowances. Hence the adage: "Marry in September's shine, your living will be rich and fine." This is something the newly taxable royals will have to think about.

And what about changing your mind? Perhaps a decline in engagement has contributed to the high divorce rate. For it is during the prenuptial pause that the realities of what is to come are brought home, and when traditionally, the wrong move can be averted.

Then again, a tale is told of Terence Reese the great bridge player who died last month, which shows how those second thoughts can be dealt with.

In 1969, at the age of 56, he proposed successfully to 26-year-old Alwyn Sherrington. But the last minute Alwyn got cold feet and rang her fiancé, who was at the bridge table, to call off the marriage. "Not now, dearest," he replied. "I am in the middle of a hand." Days later they were married.

At Asprey's, the famous New Bond Street jewellers, the way engagement rings are bought has changed dramatically. "Couples now tend to come in together," says a salesman. "They consider it a major investment and talk openly about their budget."

Sophie and Edward: royal revival?

meanest buyers of engagement rings in the world, spending an average of just £250 — or two-and-a-half weeks' wages. Even the Japanese, the last people anyone would accuse of being too romantic, generally lay out as much as three times their monthly income.

At Asprey's, the famous New Bond Street jewellers, the way engagement rings are bought has changed dramatically. "Couples now tend to come in together," says a salesman. "They consider it a major investment and talk openly about their budget."

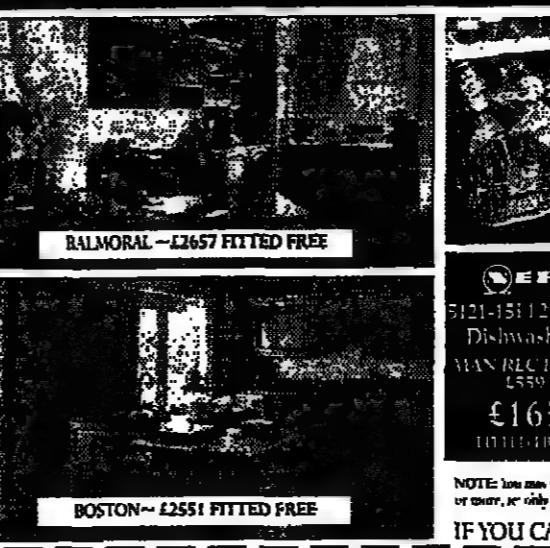
If Edward and Sophie are going to get it wrong, let them do it before it is too late.

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Alan Coren



We used to say that Britain could take it; now we can't even take this

I have watched this famous island descending incontinently, fecklessly, the stairway which leads to a dark gulf. It is a fine broad stairway at the beginning, but after a bit the carpet ends. A little farther on there are only flagstones, and a little farther on still no floor beneath your feet. And I have to tell you that, this morning, the stairway is even shakier than it was when Winston stood where I am standing now. For I have just been passed by Britannia, shuffling down, and, as she lurched, something caught the light of her guttering candle which led me to fear that it will very soon be all up with this island race.

I had, of course, grown used to the deteriorating state of her upper lip, now limp that it hangs over her lower jaw, and to that weakening of her backbone to the point where one good sneeze could well send all her vertebrae clattering into her left boot, but the glint in the candlelight was something new. It was a trifle from her nostril. Britannia, I have to tell you, was sniveling. She was breaking up. She could not take it.

She was breaking up because she could not take the breaking up of Take That. I know this, because I know that that is why the Samaritans, in addition to everything else they have on their plate in these parlous times, have set up an emergency helpline to counsel the thousands of suicidal young Britons who lack the fibre to cope with the news.

Dear God, so is it come to this? Is that generation which is our future's only hope so ill-equipped to handle setback that the dismantling of a billion-ton boy band which has decided henceforth to make its billions in individual piles for easier counting has them chucking themselves off suspension bridges?

We were not ever thus. Perhaps my earliest memory of my father is his return from six years of bitter war in a demob suit three sizes too large only to find that Wilson, Keppie and Betty had split up. Betty, voluble catalyst of an Egyptian sand dance the memory of which had kept my old man going even in the darkest hours of battle, had decided to go her own way. Did he put the souvenir Lijzer to his temple? He did not. He told my mother to cheer up, old girl, they'll find another Betty, and he put the kettle on while she, no less stoic, sat down at the scullery table and set about shortening his trousers. Life had to go on.

I learnt much from them. When, a few years later, I heard at the age of 12 that *The Road to Bali* was to be Hope and Crosby's last film together, I did not rope my young throat to an attic joist and kick away the bentwood chair. I went round to David Bunn's house, and Dave said, "Never mind, Abbott and Costello are still together," and we ran over to the allotments with our catapults, because the council gave you a shifting for each squirrel-tail, and you could get into the Southgate Odeon for that and still have threepence over for liqueur boozecakes.

I find it quite impossible to take on board the complete collapse of moral fibre and emotional resilience which one brief generation has brought. In yesterday's *Times*, our diarist noted that the switchboard at No 10 had been jammed by countless young people attempting to ring John Major to persuade him to change whatever Take That have for minds. Do you know that, when the Hope and Crosby news broke, it never even crossed mine to ring up Clement Attlee to beg his intervention?

Nor, a few years further on, when, in the selfsame month, Dean Martin parted from Jerry Lewis and Monty Sunshine left the Chris Barber Band to blow his clarinet elsewhere, did I for one moment consider pressing the Macmillan Government into service on the grounds that I had never had it so bad. I simply pulled myself together and cycled round to a girl called Sandra something to make a consolatory stab at what passed for sex in 1958.

But, as the commendably loyal Rolling Stones have it, it's all over now. We are a nation of weeds. In further evidence of which, I need cite only the fact that, when news broke of my non-appearance in my normal spot yesterday, tearful thousands rang Esther Rantzen's helpline to find out whether *The Times* and I had parted company. I hope none of them was you. I'd like to think my readers were made of sterner stuff.



Superstar Author: "Today has ended two years of absolute hell. I'm now going to have one hell of a party."

Can America stand Pat?

Buchanan's anti-abortion conservatism is setting the pace — and could rock Clinton

Since the Second World War, the Republicans have nominated a conservative as their presidential candidate, Barry Goldwater in 1964 and Ronald Reagan in 1980. Goldwater lost, but Reagan won, going on to win a second term as well. Pat Buchanan has now emerged as the leading conservative candidate for the nomination in 1996. His candidature must therefore be taken seriously. He had already won the poorly attended Louisiana caucuses; he won 23 per cent of the vote in Iowa, against Senator Dole's 26 per cent. He has momentum, and some of his issues have momentum as well. A supporter has described Buchanan as "pro-gun, pro-life, pro-taxpayer".

His strongest issue is his opposition to abortion. Since 1980 the Republicans have had an anti-abortion plank in their presidential platform, but nothing much has happened as a result. The majority of active Republicans are now "pro-life" rather than "pro-choice". In the campaign so far, the pro-choice candidates have either dropped out like Governor Wilson or Senator Specter, or decided not to run, like General Colin Powell. The only surviving candidate who could be called pro-choice is Steve Forbes, and he has been damaged by coming fourth in Iowa.

There is a division between two types of pro-life candidate. There are those, like Bob Dole himself, for whom the issue is secondary, an add-on to their campaigns. For Pat Buchanan, opposition to abortion is a defining issue; strong anti-abortion candidates took a total of 39 per cent of the Iowa vote, against 49 per cent for moderate pro-life candidates and 10 per cent for moderate pro-choice.

A large number of Republicans respond to Buchanan because they believe he means what he says about abortion, and the other frontrunners do not. They think that Dole will be pro-life in the primaries, will straddle the issue in the election itself and will do nothing if elected president. They are almost certainly correct. In Britain, where abortion is a strong personal issue but hardly a party political issue at all, it seems surprising that abortion should be playing so central a part in American presidential politics. George Will, the leading right-wing columnist, gives this reason: "Americans are beginning to recoil [from] the fanaticism that has helped to produce this fact: more than a quarter of all American pregnancies are

ended by abortions." That amounts to 1.5 million abortions a year. The right to have an abortion, as a matter of personal choice, was given to American women by the 1973 Supreme Court decision in Roe v Wade. This was a judge-made law, not legislation by elected politicians. There is no democratic way to challenge the Supreme Court, short of a constitutional amendment.

The Supreme Court also federalised the abortion law of the United States. Before 1973, this was a matter for the states themselves, and different states did in fact have different laws which reflected their different beliefs; since 1973,

abortion has been a universal right under American law, derived by a process of remote judicial interpretation of the Constitution itself. Because it is a right, American abortion law is not subject to the medical limitations which are almost universal in European law. Recently, Congress has been trying to pass a law to ban the relatively small number of what are called partial-birth abortions. The procedure in these late abortions is shocking, but it has to be described if the emotions aroused by these horrors are to be understood.

In partial-birth abortions, to quote Ray Kerrison's well-researched article in the *New York Post*, "the baby is extracted first from the womb, and through the birth canal until all but its head is exposed. Surgical scissors are then thrust into the base of the baby's skull and the brain is sucked out by a catheter." In 1995 a bill banning this practice was passed by 288 to 139 votes in the House of Representatives, and by 54 to 44 votes in the Senate. It has now gone back to the House to consider two clauses which were added in the Senate. The White House has announced that President Clinton intends to veto this bill on the grounds that it "erodes a woman's right to choose".

The pro-life campaigners are passionately angry at this proposed veto by the President. They feel that it is intolerable to live in a country where the President fights to protect the legality of such de-

testable practices, as intolerable as it would have been to live in Nazi Germany in the years of the holocaust. They see the President of the United States as a wholly abhorrent and evil man. This anger helps to fuel the Buchanan campaign. At present he is indeed the only Republican candidate whom anyone cares much about, one way or the other. Bob Dole is a very experienced politician and a good Republican; Lamar Alexander is a reasonable, folksy and popular figure. Steve Forbes may have the best understanding of the economic challenges America has to face. But Pat Buchanan is the only candidate who personifies a deeply felt cause. That is his strength.

Unfortunately, leaving aside his social conservatism, Buchanan is what has been called "the wrong sort of conservatism". He is a nationalist rather than an internationalist, and a protectionist rather than a free-trader. He attracts those Americans who want their jobs to be protected from world competition. Such attitudes have considerable support in most countries; they are the basis of the voting power of Le Pen in France or even of Zhirinovsky in Russia. Whatever view one might take of Buchanan's social conservatism, his nationalistic economic populism could be a disaster for world trade.

Of course, he has not yet won the nomination, let alone the presidency. Yet, despite the view of many commentators, neither victory can be ruled out. He is a very experienced and relatively charismatic campaigner; he is his own speech writer; he is the best elector of the Republicans have got. He will be strong in the Bible Belt of the South. He may do less well in the North-East, and the New Hampshire primary polls already suggest that Alexander may be doing better there. If Dole falters, as he well may, Alexander would become the "Stop Buchanan" candidate of the Republican centre, while Forbes might be the candidate of the Adam Smith conservatives.

Bill Clinton is probably a better elector than Buchanan. If Buchanan were nominated, Clinton might knock him out with some variant of the Lyndon Johnson "campaign theme" against Goldwater — "in your guts you know he's nuts" — but one can hardly depend on it. An increasing number of American economic commentators believe that the US will be in recession by the autumn. The Whitewater scandal does not go away, the Vincent Foster cover-up could easily unravel further. A populist conservative candidate advocating protection of jobs, American nationalism and the sanctity of the family might well beat a scandal-haunted liberal pro-abortion President during an economic downturn.

The *New York Times* would probably argue that Buchanan's conservative positions are well to the right of the American people, and that many of them are also unacceptable to the Adam Smith conservatives who delight in the leading articles in the *Wall Street Journal*. That is true. But his populist conservatism does appeal to the "hard-hat" working-class Republicans who were one of Ronald Reagan's constituents; his social conservatism and opposition to abortion appeals strongly to the large and growing religious Right. These are major social groups, and a Republican candidate who engages their support can afford to have alienated the electors of Martha's Vineyard, Westchester County, Park Avenue, The Hamptons and Harvard Yard. Reagan won in 1980 without their votes; so could Buchanan in 1996.

It probably will not happen. As in 1980, moderately conservative Republicans who would prefer Dole or Alexander probably outnumber strongly conservative Republicans who would prefer Buchanan by 60-40. New Hampshire may confirm that; even if Buchanan does well. Even if he became the Republican candidate, Buchanan would need a recession to beat Bill Clinton, and might not even win then. What is certain is that Buchanan is now the man to beat, and his conservatism is the running issue inside the Republican Party. There will again have to be a strong pro-life plank in the Republican platform. The President will veto the "partial-birth" Bill at his peril. Pat Buchanan may well never be president; it will probably be better if he is not. But in 1996 he is setting the Republican agenda, and that will to some extent set the agenda for President Clinton as well.

The IRA, on the other hand, blew the Mitchell report apart in the Docklands. There is nothing in republican ideology to prevent Sinn Fein fighting Northern Ireland elections; on the other hand, that ideology is profoundly affronted by Mitchell's assumption of the illegality of IRA arms. It is all too clear now that talks based on the report were hardly an enticing prospect for the IRA; if only because they would have involved decommissioning of arms before a settlement.

The Unionist leadership feels that precious time was lost by Dublin's slowness in seeing the potential of the electoral proposal as a way around the decommissioning impasse. Some, such as the Ulster Unionist Mr Ray Beggs, now doubt the confidence-building effect of an election, given the all-too-palpable threat of violence.

In any case, the Unionists must reach out to constitutional nationalists, North and South, as never before. This means talks about cross-border institutions. It means educating their own supporters politically, which Mr Adams failed. For we may be moving back to the world of Sir Patrick Mayhew's Cambridge speech of September 1993, in which he envisaged a political accommodation being between the moderate parties first. "Peace first, talks later" — the Albert Reynolds and John Hume approach — has triumphed in the meantime. The emphasis has been on the inclusion of extremists. But if the ceasefire has ended, and if it cannot be meaningfully restored, the political strategies based on it have gone too.

There is one bright point: the leaders of both the Ulster Unionists and the Irish Government have changed since 1992-93. The politicians now in place are more capable of making a deal; at a minimum, they could generate a better North-South atmosphere and prevent the build-up of a resentful nationalist mood which can only encourage IRA action. The big question, as always, is whether John Hume will allow such a deal. His striking new proposal for a referendum on violence, and all-party talks is further proof of his democratic good faith.

The author is professor of politics at Queen's University, Belfast

It all depends on Hume

Paul Bew looks at Ulster's options after the bomb

We are on a knife edge. At the moment every effort is rightly being devoted to getting the peace process back under way. John Major rightly demands a renewed republican commitment to peace. Even now a consensus on elections leading to all-party negotiations might put pressure on some republican leaders to return to the world of democratic politics. There are signs of a softening of attitude to this part of the proposal on the part of the Irish Government and, more problematically, the SDLP. There is also some sign of Unionist softening on the Irish proposal for "proximity talks" (simultaneous talks under one roof, but not face to face). The hope then is that this phase of the IRA's campaign will be limited and short-lived — although some veteran IRA-watchers expect a campaign of unprecedented ferocity.

Gerry Adams is diminished by the Docklands bomb. Neither the British nor the Irish Government will now afford Mr Adams a public stage. In Dublin he is strongly supported by Seamus Mallon — though not, it would seem, John Hume. The White House, too, has doubts about Mr Adams, who is in the position of a company chairman who has been demoted to running the mailroom. Mr Adams's republican critics have a sharper grasp of his deficiencies as a politician than many media folk. They know that Sinn Fein leaders nurtured illusions of a secret deal in which John Major would sell out the Unionists.

Ironically, many Sinn Fein leaders have been signalling for a year that they might be in the market for a compromise. A United Ireland is not the only "democratic" option, said Mitch McLaughlin. Jim Gibney offered to consider any political model validated by the peculiar characteristics of Irish history. For 25 years, the extremism of the IRA's method — violence — was logically linked to its objective, the expulsion of the Unionist community from the United Kingdom. Now, absurdly, the violence simply reflects ethnic resentment, because the British were thought not to be pushing the Unionists quickly enough towards a messy compromise, which would have contained many uncomfortable elements for the Northern majority. But British and Unionist reluctance was largely based on doubts about the peaceful intentions of the IRA, doubts which have just been amply confirmed.

There is now a battle for "middle Ireland" — the moderate nationalists of North and South. Many of them are inclined to blame the outbreak of violence on British and Unionist intransigence. It was not so. Sir Patrick Mayhew spent all of 1994 saying that Dublin had to promise a removal of its formal claim to the North before he would agree to the framework document, but in the end he signed anyway. Both the Unionists and Sir Patrick insisted on decommissioning of arms before talks in 1995, only to waive this condition in 1996. Furthermore, John Major did not bin the Mitchell principle despite London's irritation with the patronising tone of some of the report. He accepted it fully, at most giving it a tweak by strengthening the emphasis on the electoral process.

The IRA, on the other hand, blew the Mitchell report apart in the Docklands. There is nothing in republican ideology to prevent Sinn Fein fighting Northern Ireland elections; on the other hand, that ideology is profoundly affronted by Mitchell's assumption of the illegality of IRA arms. It is all too clear now that talks based on the report were hardly an enticing prospect for the IRA; if only because they would have involved decommissioning of arms before a settlement.

The Unionist leadership feels that precious time was lost by Dublin's slowness in seeing the potential of the electoral proposal as a way around the decommissioning impasse. Some, such as the Ulster Unionist Mr Ray Beggs, now doubt the confidence-building effect of an election, given the all-too-palpable threat of violence.

In any case, the Unionists must reach out to constitutional nationalists, North and South, as never before. This means talks about cross-border institutions. It means educating their own supporters politically, which Mr Adams failed. For we may be moving back to the world of Sir Patrick Mayhew's Cambridge speech of September 1993, in which he envisaged a political accommodation being between the moderate parties first. "Peace first, talks later" — the Albert Reynolds and John Hume approach — has triumphed in the meantime. The emphasis has been on the inclusion of extremists. But if the ceasefire has ended, and if it cannot be meaningfully restored, the political strategies based on it have gone too.

There is one bright point: the leaders of both the Ulster Unionists and the Irish Government have changed since 1992-93. The politicians now in place are more capable of making a deal; at a minimum, they could generate a better North-South atmosphere and prevent the build-up of a resentful nationalist mood which can only encourage IRA action. The big question, as always, is whether John Hume will allow such a deal. His striking new proposal for a referendum on violence, and all-party talks is further proof of his democratic good faith.

The author is professor of politics at Queen's University, Belfast

Granted

A GROUP of green-minded folk which has criticised grants to farmers has itself received a subsidy of £30,000 from the European Union to investigate the reform of er, subsidies.

The Agricultural Reform Group, which enjoys the sympathy of the Prince of Wales, and whose leading lights include Jonathan Porritt, will use the money to help pay for a conference on subsidies in Brussels later this year.

The conference is being organised by the outspoken Cambridgeshire farmer Oliver Walston, who believes reform of the common agricultural policy is essential. "We have been given money to see how we can reform subsidies," he admits.

But Walston denies any bad faith in the group's successful application to Brussels for cash. "If I had come out against all subsidies in principle, it would be hypocritical," he said. "What I am saying is that many of the subsidies currently paid are stupid. The money we are getting from Brussels is exactly what most agricultural subsidy is not — it is targeted and has been given for a specific purpose."

Stephen Howe, the Editor of

years old has been discovered in a country house in Ireland.

Simon Chase, of Hunters & Frankau, the London cigar importer, is beside himself with excitement. He says that he heard rumours of these particular cigars in the 1970s. "I knew there was a house in the west of Ireland whose owners had bought the whole annual crop of Havana during one year towards the end of the 19th century," he says. "The story kept me in the Irish mists, but finally I tracked down what I believe to be the oldest smokable cigars in the land." They're still smokable, thanks to Ireland's damp climate, and an offer of \$1 million has come in from America for a box of 500. Which works out at \$1 per smoking second.

Alistair Cooke, who is celebrating the 50 years of *Letters from America on the wireless*, says he has no intention of retiring. "If you retire, you keel over," he says robustly. His secret? Regular doses of barbiturates — otherwise known as Scotch.

Consolation

A LOVEBIRD has come to the aid of Lord Brodies as he begins his prison sentence for fraud. Dame Barbara Cartland has dispatched

DIARY

a Valentine message. "I was extremely upset by the sentence. I have known him since he was a little boy, and he is a wonderful charming man," she explains. "He has done wonderful work for the St John Ambulance Brigade. I've written to him to say I will do anything I can to help while he is in prison."

Wild West

TONY BLAIR is riding into a storm on the wilder fringes of politics over his plans for regional government. At a party meeting in Cambourne tonight, he will be up against the wrath of the Cornish nationalists.

The Labour leader, who advocates an authority for the whole of the South-West, has infuriated Melvyn Kenoway, which wants its own government and intends to

picket the meeting. "The Devonians are the worst — they look down their noses at Cornish people, and they've taken our cream and pasties, thinking we're poor cousins," says Councillor Coen Trevenen Jenkins.

• A phone rang the other day in the Eton house of Lord Freddie, son of Prince and Princess Michael of Kent. A passing pupil picked it up. "Hello," said a woman's voice. "I want to speak to Freddie Windsor." "Who is it?" drawled the youth. "Princess Michael of Kent," said she. "Yeah, and I'm the Queen of Sheba," came the retort.

Come on, girls

MANY turned out to hear Edwina Currie, on novel-writing at the Foyles lunch in London yesterday. But far more interesting was Germaine Greer on the dire state of female undergraduates. Lamenting the decline of the Lady Astor Dining Society, a female institution which closed some years ago, the Newham don suggested that girls simply don't know how to study. They should behave more outrageously.

So what does she have in mind? "Well, I'll say this. When a man bares himself and puts his bottom through a study window, it is regarded as a crime. When a group of men put their bottoms through a study window, it is regarded as an offence."

Cambridge girls study too much, she said. "Chaps know how to enjoy life and get rid of unselcome toxins. But women, while diligent and assiduous in their

studies, don't know how to unwind. They should behave more outrageously."



REPORT DAY

The verdict on Scott will be slow but sure

Even before battle on the Scott report is joined today, the Government has handed the Opposition an advantage in the competition for the public's ear. John Major may cite "usual practice" and precedents from previous inquiries until he is blue in the face. When ministers have had eight days to pour over the report, the limits they are imposing today on access to it by everybody else — the Opposition, civil servants and the press — are ridiculous, and make them look ridiculous.

As keeper of the Tory image, Brian Mawhinney should have seen personally to the burning of Ian Lang's letter to Robin Cook. Mr Cook is the only Labour frontbencher permitted an advance peek at the report — and even he will have no more than a minute for every ten pages of it. To keep Mr Cook effectively under official guard while he speed-reads his way through this vast tome at the Department of Trade and Industry tomorrow looks bad enough. To pretend that this is entirely for Mr Cook's "own convenience and security" was to court general derision. As hapless Whitehall officials scrambled yesterday to express the Government's horror "at the suggestion of giving offence", Mr Cook was naturally loving every moment.

And this jockeying in Westminster might be no more than passing interest to the general public, were it not that the charge of ministerial deception is at the core of Sir Richard Scott's investigation. If Mr Major was not prepared to yield to Opposition demands for pre-publication access, or even to the Speaker, he should have headed the protests twice made by Sir Richard himself. MPs will have precisely 10 minutes in which to grab their copies of an 1800-page report before Mr Lang rises to make his statement today. Newspapers will be handicapped too by the late provision of too few copies of a report which only the serious press can properly present to the public.

The effect of all this is inevitably to suggest to voters that the Government has guilty secrets which it is desperate to obscure. Its attempts at news management techniques are not merely inept; they look quite simply, undemocratic. Whatever the report turns out to say, the first impression that the Government is running scared of something will endure. Mr Major replies that MPs will have 11 days to pour over what Sir Richard has finally concluded, before Parliament assembles for a full debate. But for those 11 days, the Government has heated a ruck for itself, on which its reputation will continue to burn.

Maybe Mr Major believes that the report clears him, and all the vital players in the Government, of wrong-doing, that no heads will therefore have to roll and that the more excitement he can create in the Opposition benches prior to publication, the more crestfallen they will be when they see the text. It is, indeed, possible that the public's interest in this enormously complex inquiry will fall flat if the main faults are found by Sir Richard to lie with the Whitehall machine. But the better the news, the happier the Government should be to let daylight shine on Sir Richard's pages while public interest is at its height. If the news is bad, the impression of a continued desire to hide the truth can only cast the Government's defiance in the worst possible light.

The capacity of this Prime Minister to let himself be knocked off balance has long been the despair of his party. Only this Monday, he was at his earnest best: the IRA's return to the bomb brought out in him an element of true statesmanship. It is depressing that he should have lost so little time in refurbishing his reputation for getting out his shovel whenever he sees a hole ahead. It is scarcely credible that the occasion should be the publication of a long-awaited report, the purpose of which is to shine a torch into the heart of government.

AND SO TO NEW HAMPSHIRE

Alexander is now the top alternative to Dole

The voters of Iowa have made the American presidential contest much clearer. Only one candidate, other than Senator Robert Dole, appears capable both of capturing the Republican nomination and of offering a serious challenge to Bill Clinton in November. That man is Andrew Lamar Alexander, who finished a respectable third in the caucuses with 18 per cent on Monday night. Patrick Buchanan is too extreme to be either nominated or elected. Phil Gramm threw in the towel last night. The candidacy of Steve Forbes is severely crippled. If it is not to be the Senate majority leader who remains the solid favourite, then New Hampshire voters will have to give a big push to Mr Alexander next Wednesday.

The former Governor of Tennessee is an interesting and attractive possibility. He was a highly successful governor during his two terms, promoting far-reaching school reform, modernising transport and drawing record levels of investment into the state. From there he went on to be President of the University of Tennessee and Secretary of Education under President Bush.

His fortunes in this contest so far have been based less on his impressive record in office than on his ability, despite that background, to project himself as an outsider. Like so many before him, including the current incumbent, he is running for Washington by running against it. Mr Alexander is a long-standing populist. He won the state governorship in 1978 after a campaign in which he walked 1,000 miles across Tennessee wearing his trademark red and black lumberjack shirt. His speeches were enlivened by his varied talent with musical instruments. The walking shirts, and instruments, have been widely witnessed in New Hampshire over the past two years. With what effect we shall shortly see.

MARCEL AND JOAN

Writers' rooms lead into writers' lives

From 1910 until 1919, three years before his death, Marcel Proust spent most of his time in an enormous bedroom in his flat on the Boulevard Haussmann. The room had cork panels nailed to the walls and ceilings to keep out the noise of traffic, long blue curtains that were always drawn and a perpetual smell of fumigation in the room to help his asthma. Here, lying in bed in layers of sweaters, he wrote his novels.

Sequestered from the world, until the late evening when he ventured out to those society receptions and strange haunts so minutely observed in *A la recherche du temps perdu*, Proust guarded the privacy of the one place where he found a lonely happiness. The room where his life and memories were transformed into his great novel has long been a shrine in the minds of those whose own lives have been marked by immersion in *A la recherche* but only now can devotees pay homage in person. The bank that owns the building has meticulously restored Proust's favourite room — adding only a vast photograph of the recluse writer — and this week it was open to the public. Thousands of literary pilgrims are expected in the summer.

Visiting the room where a great work was engendered is increasingly popular, and not only with the literary cognoscenti. Seeing the walls, the furniture, the knick-knacks and

'Poaching' doctors from South Africa

From Sir Raymond Hoffenberg

Sir, I am working temporarily in the Department of Health in South Africa. One of the problems we are discussing is the adverse effect of the emigration of doctors. Over the past ten years this has left South Africa seriously short of doctors, particularly in rural areas, and the Minister of Health is having to recruit doctors from Cuba temporarily to meet the shortfall.

To the dismay of all concerned with the maintenance of high standards in medical care in South Africa the UK is recruiting doctors from this country on a large scale to work in both the public and private sectors.

The salaries on offer to consultants and junior doctors greatly exceed those available in public service here. For example, one medical recruitment agency, advertising in the South African *Sunday Times* of January 21, offers an average pay for a senior house officer of £4,000 (about £755) per week; the comparable post of medical officer in South Africa offers roughly £1,000 (£188) per week.

It is easy to understand why so many young doctors are tempted to emigrate. It is far less easy to understand the morality of the employing agencies in the UK, NHS and private, to head-hunt.

South Africa cannot afford to lose doctors; it needs them to provide care to patients, for teaching and for research, especially into common local disorders.

It is estimated to cost about £150,000 (£140,000) to train a doctor in South Africa. A democratic country would not wish to impose an embargo on emigration, but is it not immoral for the NHS and other recruiting agencies to be poaching its doctors to the detriment of already disadvantaged South Africans?

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND HOFFENBERG
(President of the Royal College of Physicians, 1983-89;
Department of Health;
Private Bag X282;
Pretoria 0001.
February 12)

Scott inquiry

From Vice-Admiral Sir John Lea
(Liberal Democrat)

Sir, I read with a wry smile the suggestion in Valerie Grove's interview with Sir Richard Scott (February 10) that politicians had accused him of aggressive interviewing [see also letter, February 12].

When I was Director-General of Naval Manpower and Training I was twice summoned before a Commons select committee, along with my Army and RAF colleagues and a senior civil servant. They were the most unpleasant and humiliating events in my entire career.

We were required to enter Parliament up a back staircase and wait in an empty seatless passage for a considerable time before being summoned. The chairman, a Labour MP, was both well-informed and courteous. His colleagues were neither.

We were all profoundly depressed by the experience and put it down to the sense of superiority, self-satisfaction and mutual admiration which thrives in the exclusive and cloistered atmosphere of Parliament.

I would like to think that exposure to questioning by Sir Richard Scott and his team would persuade MPs' committees to change their own ways, but I am not hopeful.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN LEA
Springfield, 27 Bright's Lane,
Hayling Island, Hampshire.
February 10.

Web of intrigue

From Mr David H. Hall

Sir, To read your "Interface" supplement each week is to grasp what stout Cortez must have felt on seeing the Pacific (according to Keats).

The news (February 7) that Socks, the White House cat, now has a "web site" surely confirms that the empty-room is best left undisturbed.

I am, Sir, yours &c,
DAVID H. HALL
15 Broughton Road,
Banbury, Oxfordshire.

Sport and TV

From Mr John Thompson

Sir, In their letter of February 6 the six heads of the major sports bodies state that the financial benefits flowing from the breakdown of the "cosy terrestrial broadcasting duopoly" have enabled money to be used for better stadiums, better training facilities, more help for the stars of tomorrow and better prospect of higher standards of achievement on the field.

I have been involved with football at a local league level with the Dartford and District Football League for the past 35 years. As a player I paid to play, and now, as an officer of the league, I contribute my services free of charge. There are hundreds and thousands like me throughout the country. Local leagues nationwide are self-financing and, if they are anything like this one, they have never received a brass farthing from the higher echelons of the game.

I, and thousands of others, repre-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Problems with Scottish devolution

From Mr Edmund Dell

Sir, I am working temporarily in the Department of Health in South Africa. One of the problems we are discussing is the adverse effect of the emigration of doctors. Over the past ten years this has left South Africa seriously short of doctors, particularly in rural areas, and the Minister of Health is having to recruit doctors from Cuba temporarily to meet the shortfall.

The proposals were based on three assumptions which their advocates thought should not be questioned:

1. That there would be no reduction in Scottish representation in the UK Parliament.

2. That what became known as the West Lothian question could be ignored.

3. That the people of England would continue to be levied for the benefit of the peoples of Scotland and Wales.

Although the principal motive for refusing any reduction in Scottish representation at Westminster was parity advantage, another consideration was that Scottish influence on the distribution of resources within the UK should in no way be impaired. I was among those who opposed these proposals. But they were forced through for crude political reasons. Their fate is well known.

There has been no significant change to the 1974 proposals, apart from what has become known as the "tartan tax". Nor have any answers been found to the questions raised by the three assumptions of the earlier proposals.

Labour spokesmen, supported by Liberal Democrat MP, Alan Beith, in his letter of February 10, consider that a sufficient answer to the first and second assumptions can be found in the precedent of Northern Ireland. Such ill-considered repartee confirms that no more real thought has gone into the elaboration of the present devolution proposals than in 1974.

Nor does Lord Irvine provide any answer in his article of February 10, "Devolution is not a revolution". The

Judicial Committee of the Privy Council may be an appropriate institution for determining jurisdictional disputes between Westminster and Edinburgh, though its proposed role would appear to bring into question the sovereignty of the UK Parliament, but it cannot provide an answer to conflicts between the UK and Scottish Parliaments about the distribution of resources.

There is indeed no answer that avoids grievances building up on both sides; the English resentful of what they are required to give and the Scottish resentful of what they are expected to receive. Devolution will not add to the prosperity of Scotland. The clamour for independence will continue and will derive further strength from the failure of devolution to solve any of the real problems of the Scottish people.

The Labour Party claims that devolution is necessary to preserve the unity of the UK. It appears to imagine it is doing England a favour. But the real question is whether, if devolution is demanded as the *sine qua non* of the continued unity of the UK, that unity is worth years of bickering, probably ending in Scottish independence.

Yours faithfully,
EDMUND DELL
(Paymaster General, 1974-76),
4 Reynolds Close, NW1.
February 10.

From Lord Brand

Sir, With reference to Alan Beith's letter on Scottish devolution, I must state that when the late Lord Kilbrandon, who favoured devolution, asked the late Lord Fraser of Tullybelton and myself why we were against it, we both replied, "Because one Ulster is enough". That is still my view.

Yours etc.
DAVID BRAND
(Solicitor-General for Scotland, 1970-72),
Ardenburn, 6 Marion Road,
North Berwick, East Lothian.
February 10.

Labour reply on school standards

From the Shadow Secretary of State for Education and Employment

Sir, The criticism by the Secondary Heads Association of Labour's proposals on school standards (report, February 13) suggests that the organisation's professed commitment to improving these standards stops short of supporting practical measures to bring such improvements about.

Labour is committed to putting the interests of parents and pupils as consumers before those of the producers of education. That is why we are proposing a national register of head-teachers; we want to move towards a situation where no new head will be appointed without a suitable leadership or management qualification.

The SHA apparently believes that we intend to impose greater control on schools by local education authorities. In fact, we believe that schools should run themselves, not be controlled by LEAs, and that the proportion of the schools budget delegated to schools should be revised from the current minimum of 85 per cent to a new minimum of 90 per cent. Schools should set improvement targets. LEAs, together with parents, businesses and local colleges, will use them to draw up local plans to raise standards.

You also report that the SHA opposes homework guidelines. In our view, homework is so important a child's educational development that we cannot afford to leave it entirely to the whim of individual schools. Our proposed guidelines will make it clear to parents that their child should expect homework from the age of seven; and the homework clubs which we propose would offer a quiet space to children without one at home.

What parents would welcome from headteachers is more recognition of how much we need to do to raise standards. I would welcome positive proposals from the SHA to help in the critical task of lifting standards and matching our international competitors.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID BLUNKETT,
House of Commons.
February 13.

Language matters

From Mr John Phillips

Sir, Your report (February 14) of Professor Jean Aitchison's assertion, in her Reith Lecture, that language is ill-equipped to convey spatial information reminded me of the essay set in my Oxford entrance examination many years ago. I was invited to "describe a man riding a bicycle to an African native (sic) who has never seen a bicycle".

Perhaps other areas of linguistic inadequacy could be catalogued and we could agree, as Wittgenstein recommended, to remain silent about which we cannot speak.

Taste, perhaps? I have long wondered how the presenters of television wine programmes might set about describing the taste of a Brussels sprout.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. PHILLIPS,
6 Vicarage Gardens, SW14.
February 14.

Floral tributes

From Mr Rodney Legg

Sir, Non-floral death tributes, in the form of charity cheques, can also come with pretty cards and kind words (letters, February 1, 8 and 9).

The bonus, as I have found after my mother's recent funeral, is that her favourite animal rescue centre has benefited by £310. In the last week I have been able to drive past Ray Jolliffe's field of donkeys at Poole with the pleasure of knowing that my mother has been feeding them through the recent snow. She would have liked that.

Yours sincerely,
RODNEY LEGG,
National School, North Street,
Wincanton, Somerset.
February 9.

From Mrs Bridget Bordewich

Sir, If I cannot go to a funeral taking a garden posy I send, by post, a small spray of rosemary from the garden with a card attached saying, "here's rosemary for remembrance (with etc)". The little spray will grow, if wanted, into a flowery, fragrant shrub, carrying memories over the years.

Yours faithfully,
BRIDGET BORDEWICH,
Ladies' Mile House,
Grand Avenue,
Worthing, West Sussex.
February 9.

As she is wrote

From Mr Robert Barnard

Sir, Surely the way for Random House to recoup the cost of the trial and the advance to Miss Collins' report, February 14; see also letters, February 12) would be to publish the first draft of her novel verbatim. It couldn't fail.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT BARNARD,
Hazeldeene, Houghley Lane,
Leeds, West Yorkshire.
February 14.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 14: His Excellency Sir Kira Bonia was received in audience by the Queen upon his appointment as High Commissioner for the Independent State of Papua New Guinea in London.

Lady Bonia was also received by Her Majesty.

His Excellency Sir Carlo Lemos-Simmonds was received in audience by the Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his Credence as Ambassador from the Republic of Colombia to the Court of St James's.

Sir Carlo Lemos-Simmonds was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

The Very Reverend the Dean of Westminster was received by the Queen.

Her Majesty held a Council at 12.40pm.

There were present: the Rt Hon Sir Patrick Mayhew MP (Secretary of State for Northern Ireland); Sir David Steel, President of the Royal Yachting Association; the Rt Hon Douglas Hogg MP, (Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) and the Rt Hon David Maclean MP (Minister of State, Home Office).

The Right Reverend Richard Charlies (Lord Bishop of London) and the Rt Hon Sir John Major (a Member of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council) took the necessary oaths.

Lord Mackay of Drumadoon, Mr Michael Ancram MP, Sir Marcus Fox MP and Mr David Heathcote-Amory MP were also in attendance.

Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

Mr Nigel Nichols was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

The Rt Hon Sir Patrick Mayhew MP had an audience of The Queen before the Council.

The Earl of Howe was received by Her Majesty and delivered up the freedom of the City of the Thistle worn by his father, the late Lord Howe of the Hills.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Permanent Master, this morning presented the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights Queen's Silver Medal to Mr John McDonald and the Company's Bronze Medal to Mr David Stewart at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, President and

Honorary Life Fellow, Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, later attended a Meeting of the Presidents' Committee at the Royal Society by Lunchtime at St James's Palace.

February 14: The Princess Royal, President, The Princess Royal Trust for Care, this morning attended a seminar "Who Cares?" for Long Term Care at Prudential Corporation, Holborn Bars, London EC1.

Her Royal Highness, Chancellor, University of London, this morning opened the rehoused Slade School of Fine Art, Gower Street, London WC1.

The Princess Royal, President, Royal Yachting Association, later attended a Council Meeting at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, Knightsbridge, London SW1.

Her Royal Highness this evening delivered the 1995 Barnett Lecture at Toybache Hall, Commercial Street, London E1.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

February 14: The Prince of Wales this morning visited SciMar Limited, 57 St James's Street, London SW1.

He was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Field Marshal Sir Roland Gibbs.

His Royal Highness later visited Dyson Appliances Limited, Tetbury Hill, Gloucestershire.

KENSINGTON PALACE

February 14: The Duke of Gloucester today visited historic sites in Harwich and was received on arrival by Her Royal Highness, Countess of Essex (The Lady Brodrick).

The Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE

February 14: The Duke of Kent, Patron, this evening attended the British Computer Society Awards Evening, at the Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, London SW1.

The Duchess of Kent, Patron, UNICEF, this morning visited Nestani Village, Calicut, and the Primary Health Centre, Pooolam, and this afternoon visited the Cox Training Centre, Patakkadavu, Kerala, India.

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Mr Nigel Nichols was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

The Rt Hon Sir Patrick Mayhew MP had an audience of The Queen before the Council.

The Earl of Howe was received by Her Majesty and delivered up the freedom of the City of the Thistle worn by his father, the late Lord Howe of the Hills.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Permanent Master, this morning presented the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights Queen's Silver Medal to Mr John McDonald and the Company's Bronze Medal to Mr David Stewart at Buckingham Palace.

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OBITUARIES

CAROLINE BLACKWOOD

Caroline Blackwood, Guinness heiress and novelist, died from cancer in New York yesterday aged 64. She was born on July 16, 1931.

CAROLINE BLACKWOOD always knew that she would be a novelist. She was a writer of dark fiction, in which she explored repression, uneasy relationships, the subtle torture of one person by another. Though she relished the macabre, she had a keen sense of humour. Usually the laughter she invoked was nervous rather than joyful. Fiercely intelligent, she seized upon a point, worried it like a terrier, leading her readers unwittingly further down the path than they would ever willingly have gone. When she undertook research, it sometimes seemed she was taking nothing in, but no detail escaped her. She could twist and exaggerate a tale, but she never lost credibility. Underlying all her work was a curious bond of sympathy, an awareness and sharing of suffering.

Caroline Blackwood was the product of two extraordinary families, the Blackwoods and the Guinesses. Through her father, Basil, 4th Marquess of Dufferin and Ava, she descended from an ancient family of Scottish extraction, who settled in Ireland early in the 17th century. Her great-grandfather, Frederick Temple Blackwood, the 1st Marquess, enjoyed a distinguished career as Governor-General of Canada and Viceroy of India. On his mother's side, he was descended from Richard Brinsley Sheridan. Basil Dufferin, her father, was a Lord-in-Waiting to King George VI and a friend of John Betjeman. He was killed in Burma in 1945, when Caroline was 13.

Her mother, who survives her, was Maureen Guinness, one of the three daughters of the Hon Ernest Guinness and a niece of the Earl of Iveagh. A legendary society figure, she brought the fruits of the brewing fortune to the Dufferins — and Clandeboye, their two-storey late-Georgian seat, near Bangor, Co Down, set in an idyllic park with a great lake and a number of follies.

Caroline Blackwood was raised at Clandeboye, modestly educated and emerged as a debutante of beguiling beauty, with her beautifully shaped head, huge blue eyes and golden hair. But the conventional path was not of her choosing. Ann Fleming introduced her to the young artist Lucien Freud, and was soon in trouble for "encouraging bizarre tartan-trousered eccentric artists to pursue virginal Marchioness's daughters".

Lady Caroline eloped with Freud to Paris, where every move was the subject of press scrutiny. She was the model for some of Freud's finest portraits, posing for him in the Hôtel de la Louisiane above the Buci market in Paris. His *Girl in Bed* is her portrait; though a painting of Caroline and her sister never progressed further than one eye — minus the eyelash. She married



Freed in December 1953, when she was 22. They settled for a while in a Georgian house in Dean Street, London, and at Coombe Priory in Dorset. Their friends were Cyril Connolly and Francis Bacon and they frequented the Colony and Gargoyle clubs.

The Freuds divorced in Mexico in 1958, after which she married the composer, Israel Cikowitz. They had three daughters, the eldest of whom was the victim of a drug overdose. They separated before Cikowitz's death. In Santa Domingo in 1972 she married the American poet Robert Lowell by whom she had one son. They spent idyllic years at Millgate in Kent, though at various points the marriage was overshadowed by his manic depression. On one occasion Lowell locked her in her apartment for three days. The poet described her as "airy and very steady and sturdy in an odd way". He died in a taxi in 1977, clutching her portrait by Freud.

Lady Caroline's creativity found an outlet in her fiction. She began her literary life working as a reader for Claude Cockburn at Hulton Press. She then became a journalist on *Encounter*, her first piece being an assured analysis of the California Beatniks in 1959, and journalism provided source material for her fiction. One of her earliest stories, *The Lunch*, was published in *The Observer* in 1978 and later reprinted as *Taff's Wife*.

She wrote ten books in all. She was encouraged by Robert Lowell to produce her first book, *For All That I Found There*, a collection of short stories. Francis Wyndham praised the fun she derived from human silliness, noting: "She is also fascinated by human extremity — by horror, ugliness, pain. Her approach is bold — perhaps almost mortally obsessed but never callous." *The Stepdaughter* (1976) was the story of a New York lady deserted by her husband, tormenting her stepdaughter in the luxurious apartment they shared. This novel won the David Higham Prize.

Great Granny Webster (1977), probably her finest novel, was partly based on her childhood experiences and a dark portrait of her Dufferin grandmother. It examined the effect of a grimly austere old lady on several generations of her Anglo-Irish family.

John Betjeman called it "powerfully malicious" and it was shortlisted for the Booker Prize.

Her next novel, *The Fate of Mary Rose*, explored a deranged mother's obsession with her daughter's safety. *Goodnight, Sweet Ladies* (five short stories published in 1983) engendered such a feeling of claustrophobia in one reviewer that she was unable to read two of them in a single sitting. *Corrigans* (1984) examined the effect of the arrival of a man in a wheelchair on the life of a lonely widow. This was a less successful book.

On The Perimeter (also 1984) was a book of reportage, the result of her long evenings talking to the Women on the Wire, protesting against the nuclear installations at Greenham Common. It involved its author in a strange incident in which some soldiers "moored" at her from a bus. She resented the insult, saying she was "shocked and appalled". Bernard Levin wrote a lengthy article in *The Times* accusing the thrice-married Caroline Blackwood of a degree of hypocrisy. The outcome was an unrepentant description of the incident in her book.

"The military buttocks loomed at us from the windows of the bus. They looked like huge white one-eyed sea monsters in a tank."

In 1987 she published *In The Pink*, an investigation of the hunting scene, which included a study of "Master", the late Duke of Beaufort, and the incident in which hunt saboteurs attempted to dig up his head and sent it to Princess Anne "treating him like the thousands of trapped foxes that he'd dug out of the earth his lifetime."

Last year she enjoyed formidable success, although more so in America than in Britain, with *The Last of the Duchess*, a wicked, chilling, yet intermittently entertaining account of the relationship between the Duchess and her over-protective lawyer, Maitre Suzanne Blum. The book was contentious and, though written in 1980, could not be published while the notoriously litigious Blum was alive. At the time of her death Blackwood had turned her attention to transvestites.

Following the sale of a house in Leicestershire in 1987, Blackwood left England to live in America, settling in the former home of President Chester Arthur at Sag Harbor, Long Island. In 1995, after four years of legal wrangling, she lost a case against her mother in which she questioned Lady Dufferin's right to settle a trust fund on her grandchildren. Although it appeared that she was acting against the interests of her two daughters, the animosity between the litigants was much exaggerated in the tabloid press. All three generations of the family were in close touch during Caroline Blackwood's last illness and her mother flew out to visit her only last week.

In later life she sacrificed her beauty to vodka, though not her talent and she continued working to the end. She had, to her delight, received a batch of books to review for *The Sunday Times* just two days before she died. The novelist in her often twisted a story to the detriment of those she loved but they invariably forgave her. Late into the night she would talk and those blessed with a strong head, who could match her unflagging energy, found her a wonderful companion — outspoken, outrageous, wildly funny and never boring.

She is survived by one son (by Lowell) and two daughters (from Cikowitz), the elder of whom, Evgenia, is married to the actor Julian Sands.

BOB PAISLEY

Bob Paisley, OBE, manager of Liverpool Football Club, 1974-83, died yesterday aged 77. He was born on January 23, 1919.



WHEN Bob Paisley retired in 1983 it was with the enviable accolade of being the most successful team manager in the history of British football. During his nine years at the helm he took Liverpool to six League championships: in 1974, 1977, 1979, 1980, 1982 and 1983. To this he added a hat-trick of League Cups in 1981, 1982 and 1983. And he guided his club to three European Cup wins: in 1977, 1978 and 1981; to the UEFA Cup in 1976 and to the European Super Cup in 1977.

The one major trophy that eluded him was the FA Cup, although more than once Liverpool were in the running. They were on course for a League and Cup double in 1977 when they took the field against Manchester United in the FA Cup Final, having clinched the League title only a few days earlier. In the event Manchester were denied this chance, beating them 2-1 on the day.

Yet only a few days more saw Paisley's team at their majestic best, in the final of the European Cup. On a warm night in the spectacular setting of Rome's Olympic stadium, Liverpool overwhelmed the German champions Borussia Mönchengladbach 3-1 in an imperious performance before tens of thousands of their die-hard supporters.

Like many who made their mark on the game, Paisley came from the North East of England, being born at Henton-le-Hole in Co Durham. He joined Liverpool as a sturdy wing-half from amateur Bishop Auckland in 1939 at a time when the man he most admired, Sir Matt Busby, was the team captain. But his career had hardly begun when war broke out, and he joined the Royal Artillery. He fought throughout the North African and Italian campaigns, taking part in the liberation of Rome.

After the war was over, Paisley returned to Liverpool to gain a first-team place, scoring a goal in the FA Cup semi-final against Everton. But he missed the 1950 final against Arsenal because of injury, a disappointment that remained with him for a long time. Hanging up his boots in the middle 1950s he became

the club's reserve team trainer, next first-team trainer, progressing to become assistant to the legendary Bill Shankly whom he was finally to succeed as manager. Shankly's retirement was as big a shock to him as it was to the rest of the footballing world. Paisley arrived back at Anfield from a holiday in Yorkshire to find Shankly in the middle of his resignation press conference.

He was appointed manager three days later, but to follow in Shankly's footsteps was a huge challenge. Shankly had taken Liverpool to the top in the Sixties, which seemed set to belong to Liverpool. Shankly had become a folk-hero on Merseyside and was worshipped by the hordes on the Anfield Kop with whom he fully identified. In their different spheres the Beatles and Shankly were the Kings of Liverpool and the Mersey sound echoed all over the land to the strains of the Kop anthem "You'll never walk alone".

Paisley was, admittedly, part of this explosion but while Shankly was the star he had an unobtrusive part in the chorus line. His ambitions never went higher than that of team trainer or assistant, so that when he took over on Shankly's retirement he had no great thoughts about the future. He was prepared merely to steer the ship past the hidden rocks and head for calm waters. He never expected to equal, let alone surpass, the achievements of his departed leader.

His destiny was to be far more momentous than he could have expected. His 44 years at the club had played their part in keeping a tradition intact. He was a benefactor of a well of pride and deep loyalty from all members of the staff and from the players themselves, for whom it was an honour to pull on a red shirt.

Paisley worked from good foundations. All the while he built new teams slowly with the injection of a new player or two in most seasons. It was remarkable how quickly new recruits were integrated and how smoothly they fitted the Liverpool style. Part of the secret lay in the fact that Liverpool sides — either Shankly's or Paisley's — were not bogged down tactically. "I didn't talk tactics because I was not taught tactics. I was merely advised on certain things about my game," said Paisley. He encouraged natural ability and kept the game as straightforward as possible. A quiet shy man, he never raised his voice to anyone.

Paisley's contribution to football was acknowledged both nationally and locally. He was appointed OBE in 1977 and made an honorary MSc of Liverpool University in 1983, in which year he also became a Freeman of the City of Liverpool. Among his publications were *Bob Paisley's Liverpool Scrapbook* (1979), *Bob Paisley: an autobiography* (1983) and *Bob Paisley's Assessment of the 1986-87 Liverpool Team* (1987).

He married, in 1946, Jessie Chandler. They had met in 1944 when he got on to a train and sat down on her sandwiches in his army greatcoat. For many years her salary as a primary school teacher supplemented his meagre earnings as a junior member of the backroom staff at Anfield. She and their two sons and a daughter survive him.

MARTIN BALSAM

Martin Balsam, American film actor, died on February 13 aged 76. He was born on November 4, 1919.

MARTIN BALSAM graduated from what might best be described as a select junior school for actors — not quite a nursery because all had been performing before — as: a

member of the cast of *Twelve Angry Men* (1957). Under the tutelage of Henry Fonda and sitting for twenty days in the classroom of the jury set, Jack Klugman, Jack Warden, E.G. Marshall and Martin Balsam gained a wealth of intensive acting experience and a new recognition value with the public; thereafter. Another actor on the set Lee

J. Cobb, who had been making films for some twenty years, described it as a turning point in his seasoned career.

Before that Balsam had just one minor film role to his credit as a stevedore in that epic of union corruption, *On the Waterfront* (1954), starring Marlon Brando and Rod Steiger.

Now Balsam had delivered a performance which

would be the benchmark against which any subsequent work would be measured. It was a role which lacked the flamboyant advantages given to the other players, but Balsam grasped the opportunity with both hands.

Patently, Fonda was the star, the man the cameras focused on throughout. Balsam was the jury foreman, the

job which by its nature was supposed to be a listening role.

On top of this, his character was supposed to be that of an insignificant little high school baseball coach, not too bright and therefore not really able to articulate in the way the other men could. To make that part live required an actor of real talent. When Balsam was on screen, the viewer could almost smell the sweat staining the once-white sports shirt, which he wore, incongruously, with a black tie. When he announced his own charge of plea to not guilty, a charge of perjury darted from the screen.

From then on the little man was allowed to grow — from a colonel in *Catch 22* (1970) to one of the *Washington Post* editors in *All the President's Men* (1976). Frequently, though, he played a Jewish businessman, often with a dowdy, domineering wife who looked as though she should have been played by Shelly Winters.

Notwithstanding this bit of typecasting, it was Balsam's versatility which impressed casting directors. Having played a stevedore and a jury foreman, he was later cast as a detective in *Hitchcock's Psycho* (1960); a camp antique dealer in *The Anderson Tapes* (1971); and one of the victims in *Raid on Entebbe*.

There was, however, an almost subliminal trademark which set him apart from other actors. He demonstrated to perfection in *The Taking of Pelham 123* (1974) about the hijacking of a subway train. He did not just play a hijacker, but played him with a cold, calculating sneeze.

PERSONAL COLUMN

UK HOLIDAYS

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

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LEGAL NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EX-SERVICES MEMORIAL WELFARE SOCIETY

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN CORPUSCULAR

LIQUIDATION

ON BEHALF OF THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE - CHANCERY DIVISION, CL 1994 H 10000, 10001, 10002, 10003, 10004, 10005, 10006, 10007, 10008, 10009, 10010, 10011, 10012, 10013, 10014, 10015, 10016, 10017, 10018, 10019, 10020, 10021, 10022, 10023, 10024, 10025, 10026, 10027, 10028, 10029, 10030, 10031, 10032, 10033, 10034, 10035, 10036, 10037, 10038, 10039, 10040, 10041, 10042, 10043, 10044, 10045, 10046, 10047, 10048, 10049, 10050, 10051, 10052, 10053, 10054, 10055, 10056, 10057, 10058, 10059, 10060, 10061, 10062, 10063, 10064, 10065, 10066, 10067, 10068, 10069, 10070, 10071, 10072, 10073, 10074, 10075, 10076, 10077, 10078, 10079, 10080, 10081, 10082, 10083, 10084, 10085, 10086, 10087, 10088, 10089, 10090, 10091, 10092, 10093, 10094, 10095, 10096, 10097, 10098, 10099, 100100, 100101, 100102, 100103, 100104, 100105, 100106, 100107, 100108, 100109, 100110, 100111, 100112, 100113, 100114, 100115, 100116, 100117, 100118, 100119, 100120, 100121, 100122, 100123, 100124, 100125, 100126, 100127, 100128, 100129, 100130, 100131, 100132, 100133, 100134, 100135, 100136, 100137, 100138, 100139, 100140, 100141, 100142, 100143, 100144, 100145, 100146, 100147, 100148, 100149, 100150, 100151, 100152, 100153, 100154, 100155, 100156, 100157, 100158, 100159, 100160, 100161, 100162, 100163, 100164, 100165, 100166, 100167, 100168, 100169, 100170, 100171, 100172, 100173, 100174, 100175, 100176, 100177, 100178, 100179, 100180, 100181, 100182, 100183, 100184, 100185, 100186, 100187, 100188, 100189, 100190, 100191, 100192, 100193, 100194, 100195, 100196, 100197, 100198, 100199, 100200, 100201, 100202, 100203, 100204, 100205, 100206, 100207, 100208, 100209, 100210, 100211, 100212, 100213, 100214, 100215, 100216, 100217

THE TIMES TODAY

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 15 1996

NEWS

Blair boycotts Scott preview

The Government was again thrown on the defensive over the Scott report when plans to allow a handful of politicians early sight of the document were derided.

Tony Blair led a boycott of arrangements under which he and others were to be allowed to read the report at the Trade Department from midday. Mr Blair, Lord Richard, leader of the Labour peers, and the Liberal Democrat Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, said they had no intention of doing so under the "extraordinary and insulting" conditions. Page 18

Interest rates set to fall

City analysts and senior Conservatives joined forces to predict further cuts in interest rates in the wake of a Bank of England U-turn over inflation. Tory MPs forecast that base rates would tumble by 0.75 per cent to 5.5%. Page 1

Paisley mourned

Football supports in Liverpool united in mourning for Bob Paisley, the most successful manager in British soccer history. Page 1

Ulster reinforcements

A force of 500 extra troops is to be flown to Northern Ireland as part of the Government's military response to the ceasefire breakdown. Soldiers from the Royal Irish Regiment will be deployed in border areas. Page 1

Lawyers' row

The President of the Law Society launched a strong attack on his opponents after he was accused of being preoccupied with enemies and of being an ineffective reformer. Page 2

Generation election

Two political opponents in Northern Ireland will watch their offspring pick up their political mantle when they fight for the presidency of the Students' Union at Queen's University. Page 3

Bishops in need

Faced with a vision of a cash-strapped bishop struggling with Tesco shopping bags, huge gas bills and mounting debts, the Church of England rejected calls to pay clergy equally. Page 5

Telescope success

British physicists have perfected a telescope that can take a sharper picture than the Hubble space telescope. Page 6

'Sherlock' Soames finds her treasures

The redoubtable Serena Soames, wife of the 16-stone Armed Forces Minister, was so enraged by the theft of her family heirlooms she spent three days roaming antique shops in the back streets of Brighton until she tracked them down. Her detective work in the South Coast resort brought her a £100 reward from the High Sheriff of West Sussex. Page 1



Sister Marjorie, 75, making a charity parachute jump with the RAF Falcon team at Weston-on-the-Green, Oxfordshire, yesterday.

BUSINESS

Pig rustlers
A Europe-wide shortage of pork and bacon, partly caused by a surge in exports to Japan, has led to pig rustling on a grand scale, said farmers and police. Page 10

Dole nightmare
Robert Dole's address to New Hampshire's state legislature was that of a man facing his worst nightmare. The septuagenarian senator made no mention of his hollow victory in Monday's Iowa caucuses. Page 12

War crimes decision
The war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia is about to indict the first Bosnian Muslims for war crimes. Page 13

Italian crisis
Italy was plunged into a fresh political crisis with a disruptive election campaign looking increasingly likely only weeks before the special European Union summit in Turin which Italy is due to chair. Page 14

Mandela mystery
A woman, whose identity has not yet been disclosed, will accompany President Mandela of South Africa during his four-day state visit to Britain in July, his office has announced. Page 15

Telescope success
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'Sherlock' Soames finds her treasures
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SPORTS

Cricket: England, let down by their fielding, lost the opening match of the World Cup by 11 runs to New Zealand in Ahmedabad. Nathan Astle, who scored 101 for the winners, was named man of the match. Page 32

Football: Bob Paisley, Britain's most successful manager, who died after a long illness, He guided Liverpool to 13 trophies in nine years. Pages 22

Athletics: Diane Modahl began proceedings against the British Athletic Federation for compensation over her fight to clear her name of a drug offence. Page 44

Rugby union: Tony Russ, director of rugby at Leicester, denounced the strategy pursued by England this season. Page 41

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 2.6 to 3,010. Sterling was unchanged at \$1.5337 after a rise from \$1.5335 but a fall from DM2.2663 to DM2.2597. Page 26

Board meeting: The week's big new movie, *Jumanji*, brings a board game to life with spectacular special effects. Also reviewed is the new film version of *Othello* with Laurence Fishburne and Kenneth Branagh. Page 32

Molière modernised: At the Young Vic a fine cast led by Ken Stott and Elizabeth McGovern is presenting Molière's *The Misanthrope*, updated to 1990s London. Page 33

Fame tutored: How do you teach people to be famous? Andy Laverne sits in on the first weeks of Paul McCartney's Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts. Page 35

Those rough notes: At Covent Garden, *Aida* had a rough night, with a star soprano suddenly replaced. Page 35

Killer cosmetics: Make-up and moisturisers can be contaminated by bacteria on the hands or in the air. Kathryn Knight on the health dangers lurking at the bottom of your handbag. Page 16

Tall storeys: The world's fifth-richest woman wants to build the world's tallest skyscraper. One reason may be that she stands barely five feet high. Quentin Letts talks to Nina Wang. Page 17

The romance of Zola: Derwent May reviews a biography of Emile Zola, the mordant critic and prolific interpreter of Second Empire France. Pages 34, 35

ALAN COREN: We were not ever thus. When I heard at the age of 12 that *The Road to Ball* was to be Hope and Crosby's last film together, I did not rope my young throat to an attic joist and kick away the笨wood chair. Page 18

JOHN BRYANT: Clamping a clothes peg on your nose in the interest of sporting science is a tough assignment. But it's just one of the workouts my nose has been subjected to. Page 38

Caroline Blackwood: Guinness heiress and novelist Bob Paisley, football manager. Page 21

Scottish devolution: Labour plans for schools; South African doctors emigrate to UK. Page 19

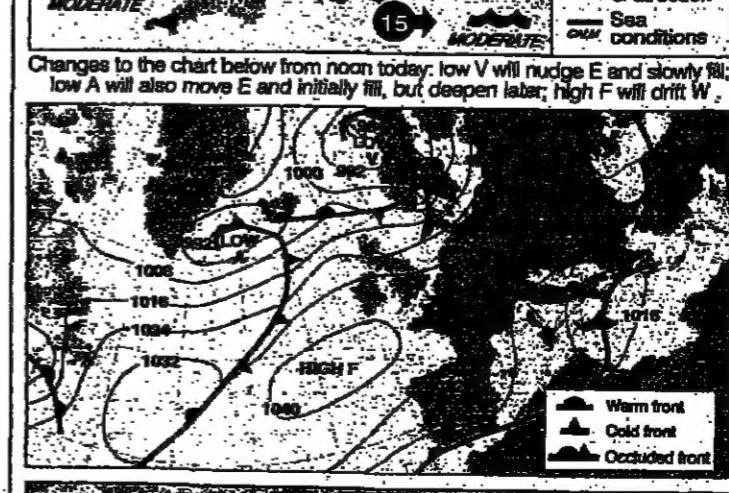
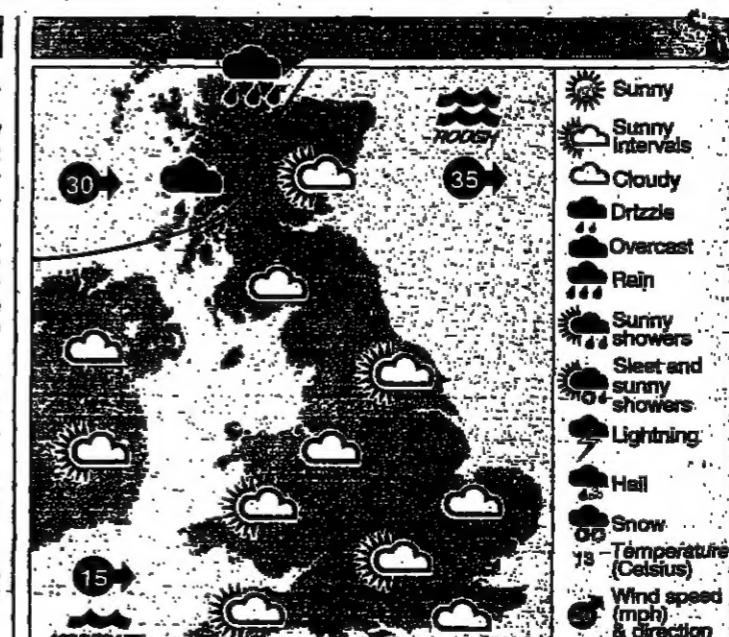
IN THE TIMES

INTERVIEW
Valerie Grove meets anti-roads rebel, the Marchioness of Worcester

EDUCATION
Rabbi Julius Neuberger on Jewish education and community cohesion

If social and economic conservatives cannot unite in this year's Presidential race, neither will like the results a new lease on political life for the discredited notions of redistributionist economics, class warfare and a continuation of the rampant secularism and value-neutral attitudes that prevail in our public institutions.

— *Wall Street Journal*



	AM	HT	PM	HT	PM
Aberdeen	7.00	26	8.20	52	63
Airmouth	7.58	107	1.29	107	107
Belfast	5.02	3.0	8.00	32	32
Cardiff	0.54	3.7	1.31	98	98
Dover	5.03	4.5	5.51	5.5	5.5
Falmouth (pr Well)	11.43	43	23	6.5	31
Groenwich	6.49	34	8.25	34	34
Harrow	5.42	4.6	8.10	47	47
London	5.00	1.00	7.50	1.00	1.00
Madras (Adyar)	12.27	67	1.27	75	75
King's Lynn	0.30	5.4	1.70	5.2	5.2
Weymouth	5.1	7	45	5.1	5.1

Westerly: Highest day temp: Saunton Sands, Devon, 20.4°C (68°F); lowest day temp: Speanerdown, Cambria, 9.2°C (48.6°F); highest rainfall: Leamington, North Warwick, 0.123m; highest sunshines: Penzance, Cornwall, 8.6h.

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Fronts: Warm front; Cold front; Occluded front.

Wind speed & direction: Moderate; Strong; Gale; Hurricane.

Sea conditions: Calm; Light winds; Moderate; Strong; Very strong.

Temperature (°C): 30; 25; 20; 15; 10; 5; 0; -5; -10; -15; -20; -25; -30.

Wind speed (mph): 30; 25; 20; 15; 10; 5; 3; 2; 1; 0.5; 0.25; 0.125.

Cloudiness: 30; 25; 20; 15; 10; 5; 3; 2; 1; 0.5; 0.25; 0.125.

Pressure (mb): 1030; 1025; 1020; 1015; 1010; 1005; 1000; 995; 990; 985; 980; 975; 970; 965; 960; 955; 950; 945; 940; 935; 930; 925; 920; 915; 910; 905; 900; 895; 890; 885; 880; 875; 870; 865; 860; 855; 850; 845; 840; 835; 830; 825; 820; 815; 810; 805; 800; 795; 790; 785; 780; 775; 770; 765; 760; 755; 750; 745; 740; 735; 730; 725; 720; 715; 710; 705; 700; 695; 690; 685; 680; 675; 670; 665; 660; 655; 650; 645; 640; 635; 630; 625; 620; 615; 610; 605; 600; 595; 590; 585; 580; 575; 570; 565; 560; 555; 550; 545; 540; 535; 530; 525; 520; 515; 510; 505; 500; 495; 490; 485; 480; 475; 470; 465; 460; 455; 450; 445; 440; 435; 430; 425; 420; 415; 410; 405; 400; 395; 390; 385; 380; 375; 370; 365; 360; 355; 350; 345; 340; 335; 330; 325; 320; 315; 310; 305; 300; 295; 290; 285; 280; 275; 270; 265; 260; 255; 250; 245; 240; 235; 230; 225; 220; 215; 210; 205; 200; 195; 190; 185; 180; 175; 170; 165; 160; 155; 150; 145; 140; 135; 130; 125; 120; 115; 110; 105; 100; 95; 90; 85; 80; 75; 70; 65; 60; 55; 50; 45; 40; 35; 30; 25; 20; 15; 10; 5; 3; 2; 1; 0.5; 0.25; 0.125.

Pressure (mb): 1030; 1025; 1020; 1015; 1010; 1005; 1000; 995; 990; 985; 980; 975; 970; 965; 960; 955; 950; 945; 940; 935; 930; 925; 920; 915; 910; 905; 900; 895; 890; 885; 880; 875; 870; 865; 860; 855; 850; 845; 840; 835; 830; 825; 820; 815; 810; 805; 800; 795; 790; 785; 780; 775; 770; 765; 760; 755; 750; 745; 740; 735; 730; 725; 720; 715; 710; 705; 700; 695; 690; 685; 680; 675; 670; 665; 660; 655; 650; 645; 640; 635; 630; 625; 620; 615; 610; 605; 600; 595; 590; 585; 580; 575; 570; 565; 560; 555; 550; 545; 540; 535; 530; 525; 520; 515; 510; 505; 500; 495; 490; 485; 480; 475; 470; 465; 460; 455; 450; 445; 440; 435; 430; 425; 420; 415; 410; 405; 400; 395; 390; 385; 380; 375; 370; 365; 360; 355; 350; 345; 340; 335; 330; 325; 320; 315; 310; 305; 300; 295; 290; 285; 280; 275; 270; 265; 260; 255; 250; 245; 240; 235; 230; 225; 220; 215; 210; 205; 200; 195; 190; 185; 180; 175; 170; 165; 160; 155; 150; 145; 140; 135; 130; 125; 120; 115; 110; 105; 100; 95; 90; 85; 80; 75; 70; 65; 60; 55; 50; 45; 40; 35; 30; 25; 20; 15; 10; 5; 3; 2; 1; 0.5; 0.25; 0.125.

Pressure (mb): 1030; 1025; 1020; 1015; 1010; 1005; 1000; 995; 990; 985; 980; 975; 970; 965; 960; 955; 950; 945; 940; 935; 930; 925; 920; 915; 910; 905; 900; 895; 890; 885; 880; 875; 870; 865; 860; 855; 850; 845; 840; 835; 830; 825; 820; 815; 810; 805; 800; 795; 790; 785; 78